



Southern Cross

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Southern Cross is published three times a year—Fall, Mid-winter and Spring.

Articles and photos are encouraged and appreciated. With photos, please include caption information. If at all possible, please include a photo of the author with articles. Submission deadline for the Mid-Winter issue is January 20, 2006.

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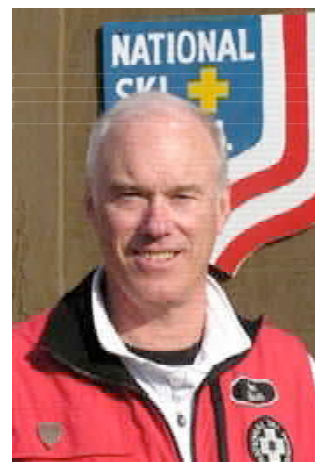
A Season In The Making.

Neil Booth, Division Director

The new season is upon each and every one of us. Today is now! This is the time of year we all begin the process of sharpening our skills. It is done in several ways. We accomplish this by rethinking what we know or have learned in the past, plus, we learn new and better ways of doing what we have previously done. Stop and think about it!

We begin with OEC, followed by getting our physical beings in shape, learn what has changed at

our resorts, prepare to sharpen our dormant on snow skills from the off season hiatus, all culminating into the process of being the best patrollers we can be, serving the snowsports consumers and our resorts. This is what being a member of NSP requires.



As your Division Director, I view our organization as an educational body, responsible for teaching and refreshing everyday skills, for what we do at our resorts. The division is responsible for operational delivery of education programs, to membership. Divisions can make recommendations to National about programs, but ultimately, the division's role is simply and rightfully so, to deliver programs! Our first approach is the offering of NSP programs. The second step relies upon our NSP instructor corps, delivering education in a meaningful way. The division staff relies upon each patrol and members, desiring these programs, to notify the respective region administrator regarding program specifics, getting a date on the calendars and attending the event. We will not force events, we will fulfill patrol and members desire. There is a great staff of instructors waiting to be of service to you, our members.

We have an awful lot to do to get ourselves ready for the season. Let us stay focused on the fact that we are members of the association, working for our individual resorts for the

purpose of providing safety services to our snowsports public. Without consumers, resorts have no relevance, nor do we, or any of the support staff at resorts. We patrollers are an absolutely wonderful, dedicated and caring group of professionals. We understand that our consumers are the lifeblood of the industry. Stay focused on this fact and it will serve us all very well.

This has perhaps been the most difficult message I have had to write in my 33 years of patrolling. It is difficult because of the events before us, as an organization. Membership should be aware that there are issues going on between our national board and a group of petitioners. My position has been to stay out of the flurry of emails, letters, phone calls, etc. on the developing situations. Whether or not you buy in to what is going on, the mission of NSP, the board's position, the petitioner's position, or anything else floating around, is totally your decision to make. I, like each one of you, have an opinion. Do things need to be fixed within the organization? Will the organization survive, divide or disappear? These are questions that only you, as a member, can answer. You will all have the opportunity to vote in the near future on the following items:

1. **A change to NSP's Articles of Incorporation.** If we frame this up, the Articles are similar to the U.S. Constitution. They are the founding criteria we operate under. Bylaws of the organization are the tactical elements on how we fulfill our Articles, through detailed plans.

QUESTION: If a new operating principle is made, should it be through Articles or Bylaws? The proposal before us requests a vote through Articles. Could changes be addressed through a bylaw versus an Articles change?

2. **Membership Voting rights.** The petition, which henceforth is referred to as the "ballot", adds the following to the Articles: "The Board of Directors may not change quorum requirements, nomination process, election process or term of office without a vote of the membership."

QUESTION: Do you agree with all five items in this statement in quotations? The proposed ballot will be an all or nothing vote, in the Articles. Could quoted statements be changed in the bylaws, where they already exist, with modifications?

3. **Term limits.** The ballot adds the following to the Articles: "Six (6) years total term limit for members on the National Board including the time as Chairman."

QUESTION: Is six years long enough for Board members and Chair to serve? This past summer, the board passed a 9-year term limit, Chair can serve 6 total years, however the time does not count as part of the 9-year board member term limit, or a total potential of 15 years on the board. This is a ballot item for a term limit change. Could term limits be changed in the bylaws, where they already exist, with modifications?

4. **Nomination Committee.** The ballot adds the following to the Articles: "The NSP will be composed of 10 Geographic Divisions (Alaska, Eastern, European, Far West, Intermountain, Northern, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain and Southern) and a Professional Division. Each Division will be headed by a Division Director who is elected in accordance with the Bylaws of their respective Division. To enhance communications among Division Directors and provide maximum access for working patrollers, the Division Directors will be the nominating committee for the Board of Director vacancies in a manner provided for in the Bylaws."

QUESTION: Is the best methodology for the nomination committee Division Directors only? Should it be broadened? Currently, the National Chair, the three Executive Committee

Board Chairs and two members at large sit on the nomination committee. Should it be changed to only Division Directors as the ballot recommends? Could the nomination committee composition be changed in the bylaws, where they already exist, with modifications? The 10 Geographic Divisions are currently part of the bylaws today, so do they need to be addressed and voted upon in the Articles ballot?

5. **Candidacy positions.** The ballot adds to the Articles: “There will be more nominees than there are positions to fill to allow members a choice.”

QUESTION: We generally have 4 positions to the Board up for re-election each year, so, should we have more than 4 candidates to choose from? Would it make sense to have a slate of 6 to 8 candidates to choose from? What if we only have 4 people? Could the candidacy slate be change in the bylaws, where they already exist, with modifications?

6. **Voting for Candidates.** The ballot adds the following to the Articles: “Election will be by member direct vote on ballots delivered to each active member in a manner provided for in the bylaws. The nominees receiving the most votes will fill the available vacancies. There is no minimum quorum for member voting.”

QUESTION: Should members have a direct vote with positive affirmation by each member that votes? Currently, if a member does not vote, their vote is automatically counted as an affirmative vote. If we only receive 100 votes (past election voting results) from members, is this sufficient affirmation to elect a candidate? Should we consider a simple majority of votes at any level of votes submitted, or, should there be a minimal number of votes for each candidate. Should voting default to the nominating committee if the system generates less than 25% of voting members voting? This would mean that a minimum of around 7,000 members must vote to be considered an official membership vote. If membership voting is minimal, should our system default to the Board making the decisions on candidacy?

The overall question which future voting members must ask themselves, before casting their vote, and remember, it is one vote with six items, not six votes, is do you agree with each and every point listed. If you agree with all points, vote yes. If you do not agree with one point, but all others, remember it is one vote and your final vote will be counted accordingly. Last, remember you are voting on an Article of Incorporation ballot change. Ask yourself, is there a better, more flexible way to achieve what is proposed, needed or not needed? Articles are why we exist; bylaws are how we operate. If you agree with a change to Article, and all points, vote yes. If you do not agree with this ballot to change Articles, but feel bylaws are the preferred method, vote no. If you disagree with a ballot through Articles changes, but agree with the 6 items within the ballot, vote no. If you agree with this ballot to change Articles, but do not agree with all 6 items, vote no. Everyone likes to feel they have a voice in the organization. Just remember, you are not voting on you ability to vote only. You are voting on the method to achieve change on six points, all wrapped into one vote! We ask that you all vote when the ballot comes out. We ask that you consider all points in the ballot. There is no picking or choosing of individual items, it is one vote for all points! We trust you will make an informed decision, then, vote accordingly.

Regardless of the status of the above issues, remember our focus is to take care of our consumers, at our resorts, through your patrol. We all enjoy what we do or we would not continue patrolling. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Let us make this a great and prosperous season.

From the Assistants...

R. Morgan Armstrong,
1st ADD, Southern Division

END OF YEAR REPORTS: Each patrol representative should begin September first to record the activities of his or her patrol. Having the information in a file or notebook will make filing your report next spring much easier. The new patrol representatives received a copy of the End of Year Report Form at the Fall Officers Meeting but if you missed it, contact R. Morgan Armstrong, at rmasp@Adelphia.net. I will be happy to send you a copy. Please look over the form and start recording all of the events needed for the report.

PROGRAM SUPERVISORS: While the chain of command for programs is to your National Ski Patrol, Program Director, remember you owe the division the following reports. Each fall at the Fall Officers Meeting each Southern Division Program Supervisor should file with the 1st ADD a list of goals for the ski season. Then in the spring, when the End of Year Report is due, the Supervisor should follow up with a report to the 1st ADD on which goals were accomplished with a short report on how that was done. Please do not forget to file this important report so the division can keep informed of your success.

WAIVER FORMS: The use of the Southern Division Assumption of Risk Waiver form is more important today than ever before. Each instructor of a class or event and each patrol representative should have everyone under your program sign one of these waivers. The waiver should be signed each year for a patrol and before each event for any other program. These forms may be found on the Southern Division Website at www.nsp.org/divisions/southern and the waiver is on the division home page. Look in the box titled "On this site." It is available in two formats for instant downloading and printing. The financial health of the patrol, division and each officer and instructor depends on these being signed. Anyone not willing to assume his or her own risk for training, patrolling, participating in an event or test should not be allowed into that event or program.

RISK MANAGEMENT: A lot is being written and discussed in the ski patrol family about risk management and the reaction of the NSP Board to these concerns. Many times our Board of Directors is being forced into making policy decisions based upon the risk issue. We need to lessen the risk. You read about the waiver above and now lets discuss why the waiver is important.

Presently there are only three ways to control risk in patrolling. One, have good insurance; two, have statutory immunity passed by a state or the national government, or three, do not act when the act could result in risk. Each remedy has a good side and a bad side. If we are to patrol and teach we must expose ourselves to some risk. The risk might be injury or death depending on the act performed either for us or another person. Accidents are rare but they do happen. So each of us needs to look at our ability to sustain an injury and what that means to our family.

Assess the risk and make your own decision. Do I patrol and assume the risk? Do I teach and assume the risk? Do I quit?

As for me I enjoy patrolling and teaching too much to quit. I have health insurance and disability insurance for my protection and the protection of my family. Do you have each? I have liability insurance through my homeowner's policy with an umbrella coverage that gives me extra protection. Do you? My resort is fully insured and I keep up with the financial status of my resort. Do you? Finally, I live in Virginia, which has provided all volunteer patrollers (non-paid) with full immunity

from suit by patients. Even if I do not perform to the standard of OEC or make a mistake, I still have immunity. Only if I deliberately injure someone do I lose my immunity. What immunity does your state offer?

If I choose to be a paid patroller, I do not have state immunity because of my employment. I must depend on the insurance of my resort. However, when I volunteer or anytime I am off the clock and off the mountain, I have my state immunity to protect me if I go to the aid of someone. What do you as a paid patroller know about your immunity and when and how your resort insurance policy covers you?

What should I know as an instructor? When dealing with a training situation the candidate should assume the risk. The candidate is getting the benefit of an education or skill enhancement. If he or she wants to participate, the candidate should assume the risk. Only the individual candidate knows his or her emotional, mental and physical health at any given time. If a candidate wants to risk a run down an expert slope, that individual should assume the risk or decline the offer to ski that slope. It is fine to assume the risk. Every skier assumes the risk of each slope they ski. Why can't the candidate assume the risk?

When does the instructor veto the candidate's assumption of the risk? When the instructor has reason to believe the risk is too great. Even when the student wants to assume the risk, if the instructor suspects the risk is too great, the candidate should be stopped and removed from participating. The instructor must always demand each candidate tell them when they have a medical, emotional or mental issue, which might increase the risk of the lesson. The instructor should constantly monitor the candidate and if the risk causes you concern, step in and stop the risk. Never force a candidate to perform unless you feel comfortable their skill matches the demand made upon them. Picking choice number three, do not act, is always a good choice.

Who looks after patrollers? Every patroller assumes their own risk when they walk out the patrol room door on the way to an accident. Just know what amount of risk you are taking on. If you are recovering from an illness, are on medication or just don't feel well, decline the rescue. We have enough patients without becoming a patient. Using good judgment and assuming responsibility is a part of patrolling.

Patrol representatives should be sure each patroller recognizes this. Each patrol representative should require the patroller sign the Southern Division Assumption of Risk Waiver at every refresher. Each instructor should teach this at the first lesson and require each candidates sign the Southern Division Assumption of Risk Waiver on the first day.

**In short be responsible for yourself.
Keep NSP in skiing and snowboarding by lessening the risk.**

Learning All Over Again -

Richard Boyer

Assistant Division Director - Southern Area



In the heat of this Summer I am looking forward to Ski Season and Wintertime. I'm new at this position and will be learning what is needed to help the South Area of our Southern Division run efficiently. **Mike Harris**, the Regional Director of the Blue Ridge Region and **Brent Bowman**, RD for Dixie Region run very good regions and that will make my job more enjoyable and enable me to do what I enjoy most, meet patrollers whom I've not had time to get to know.

This is a good time to take stock of our strengths and weaknesses as a patroller and of our respective patrols. There is exposure to us all when we are on duty at our ski areas. After all, we do work directly for these areas, right? This is important... WE WORK DIRECTLY FOR OUR RESORTS AND SKI AREAS, AS AGENTS! We also happen to belong to a wonderful organization, the National Ski Patrol, but in so far as to the risk we take-on in helping those who need our help on-the-hill, we work directly, as agents, for the ski area! Please remember this or the results may be detrimental to us personally and to the NSP. The entity who takes this risk and thereby employs protective measures against it, is, and SHOULD BE, the ski area. It is for this risk THEY purchase liability insurance coverage.

You will hear "Who do we work for?" many times during the refresher season this year, and for the survival of our ski patrolling organization, it is an important lesson we all must learn.

Two other items I want to project forward are awards for our patrollers and succession planning. We've been improving in the awards category and need to get started early in the season beginning this process. Any patrollers who notice another patroller doing exceptional things as a patroller should pass this on to your patrol representative and get the ball rolling for consideration for an award. What is succession planning? It is identifying who is going to replace you and taking steps toward bringing them along so the eventual transition is an orderly one. We all, as patrollers, should do this by recruiting new members, and ones who hold an office should be doing it as well for the position they hold.

As the season draws near and we begin attending the various refresher classes I hope to meet as many of you as possible and will be happy to answer any questions anyone may have about where we are headed with the Southern Division and where the Board of Directors is taking the NSP.

Thank you each for being a national ski patroller.

You are very special.

Notes From The North...

Jan Starr

Assistant Division Director – North Area

The leaves have started to color up here in the mountains, and there is a chill in the evening air. That means our ski season is just a few months away. Everyone should have dates marked for his or her refreshers. If you can't get to your areas refresher due to a conflict with the dates, please check the Southern Cross calendar for another near you. It is very hard on your instructors to make up a missed refresher. Don't get on that delinquent list!



I'm hearing a lot of good comments on our new "On Scene" study guide and magazine. What a great new production. It has some wonderful information and articles written by some of our very own Southern Division folks.

As we go *forward* into this season, let us not forget that as members of this organization that trained us, that we do our duty days and work for our area's management. Please talk to your PD or PR about the joint statement of understanding between NSP and area management if you have any questions about this.

As a member of NSP for 25+ years, I have to say that we have come a long way from when I first started patrolling. We are not only responders to skiers, but to snowboarders, tubers, cross country skiers, mountain bikers and rafters in some areas. From WINTER EMERGENCY CARE, we went to OUTDOOR EMERGENCY CARE to accommodate all these aspects of outdoor fun. Our OEC program is used by all areas, and is nationally recognized. The quality assurance of our training and our continuing education in the levels of patrolling keep us informed and updated in all aspects of care, first aid, and transportation. This to me is what this organization is all about. Our National Board is striving to keep us trained and informed in the outdoor community to benefit our areas at which we perform our duties.

The instructors in all our disciplines put a lot of time in to better themselves, in turn transmitting this knowledge to you the patroller. Always thank them for their time to expand your knowledge.

See you on the hill or at your refresher.

Who's the boss?

*Bartek Drewnowski
Massanutten Patrol Director
Southern Division Professional Director*



Similar to the 80's sitcom, "Who's the Boss?" it may be difficult to conclude who our boss is while we perform our patrolling duties. The answer appears to be a complex web comprised of National Ski Patrol and area management. However, who is the real boss? Before proceeding further, we must make sure the following criteria are met. First, you must be a member in good standing of the National Ski Patrol, and you must be registered with your local patrol. Second, your local patrol must be registered with National Ski Patrol. Finally, your area management must recognize OEC as the standard of care for its guests and they must be committed to providing emergency and safety services using National Ski Patrol trained individuals.

In search of our boss, we can follow a number of different trails. **First**, we will start with the most obvious: compensation. If you perform a task for which you are compensated, whether it is an actual pay check, a ski pass, a family pass, etc. the one rewarding you with the compensation should naturally be the boss; i.e.: area management. Therefore, whether you are a paid or volunteer patroller, employee or agent, we all answer to area management.

Second, we can follow the training trail. Our medical training comes from National Ski Patrol in the form of the Outdoor Emergency Care course and other continuing education programs. Also, we are trained and certified by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or other associations in our CPR and AED skills. Additionally, we receive training and direction from area management in regards to lift evacuation, slope opening/closing procedures, and other operational issues. Moreover, individual area management not only sets the standard for basic ski and toboggan skills, but they also are responsible for any other ski & toboggan training not performed within the scope of the Southern Division Ski School program. Furthermore, the OEC curriculum includes numerous references to "local protocols", such as boot on or boot off in the treatment of a suspected femur fracture. Thus, the implication is that area management defines these "local protocols" ranging from the above-mentioned question to the specific rescue equipment utilized on the hill. Therefore, one may conclude that National Ski Patrol provides a guideline with its OEC curriculum, but the buck stops with area management in regards to the application of OEC, and all other aspects of operations.

Thirdly, we can examine the insurance and legal trail. Barring patroller's actions infringing on gross negligence, we should be covered by our area's liability insurance. Meaning, any litigation stemming from an incident at the area is the area's and their insurance carrier's responsibility. However, there is only a single scenario under which some patrollers are covered under an insurance policy of the National Ski Patrol. The fore mentioned applies while National Ski Patrol certified instructors are delivering or participating in an officially endorsed National Ski Patrol program or course, which is properly registered with National Ski Patrol. Therefore, any duties performed while patrolling fall under the legal protection and supervision of area management and their respective insurance carrier. Also, your area's policy should include coverage for injuries constituting a worker's compensation claim sustained while patrolling. (Note: There may be some variations in state law dictating the nature and extent of this coverage.) Once again, it becomes clearer that area management is the boss, and they are ultimately responsible for actions taken while we perform our patrol duties.

In conclusion, the patrol is simply an operating department of the ski area. We don the uniform prescribed by our area management and perform our duties at the will of area management. We are subject to the discipline rules and regulations which may be set by our area's Human Resource department and/or management, and which bind us to their policies and procedures. We are trained by National Ski Patrol instructors in the realm of OEC, and we are under the direct supervision of our area management. Area management facilitates the grounds for a mutually beneficial relationship within which we assist snow sport participants, and area management is able to provide a first class service to its guests. It is good practice, however, to inquire with your area manager to make sure insurance coverage is provided for you in case of litigation. You may also want to check with your personal insurance agent for any additional coverage, in the form of an umbrella policy, you may desire for your protection. Your accountant should also be consulted to make sure any deductions you claim are for your instructor service to National Ski Patrol, not your service to a for profit corporation. If you still feel uncertain about your position, you may want to consult an attorney and review the *Joint Statement of Understanding Between the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. and the National Ski Areas Association* to ensure that you are not exposing yourself to unnecessary risk by placing yourself in a vulnerable position. As we make preparations for the upcoming season by brushing up our skills, we should also make time to check with our local area management to ensure the existence of the above-mentioned relationship.

TREASURER'S REPORT - 7/01/04-6/30/05

*Jim Underwood,
Treasurer*

Listed below is a summary of the Southern Division's Treasury report for last season. If any member wishes a detailed copy of this report please contact Jim Underwood, 865-483-3675, jun@bellsouth.net , or 109 Wildwood Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 for a mailed or E-Mailed copy.

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
Checking *	\$ 7,633.46	\$ 13,418.22
Savings *	40,169.64	41,573.68
Contingency	<u>25,133.28</u>	<u>25,888.22</u>
TOTAL	\$ 72,936.38	\$ 80,880.12

* Operating Account

Junior Memorial Fund

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
Savings	\$ 4,005.18	\$ 3,805.13

Mary K. Twomey Fund

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
Savings	\$ 2,734.81	\$ 2,770.67

Certified Program Supervisor

Stephen Kuller,
Certified Program Supervisor

I want to take a moment to provide you with a description of what I feel the certified program is. The Certified program is a group of committed patrollers striving to keep a level of participation ongoing for all that wish to attain a strong sense of professionalism. The program is designed to encourage the sharing of ideas and concerns among the more experienced members of the division while validating the skills set by National. The return flow of this knowledge back to the local patrols will enhance the training and skills of the local patrols to benefit of the area they serve.

Now having read what the program means to me, and speaking for the other members of the program, I would like to ask you (the reader) a question. *Could you see yourself becoming an active member of the southern division certified program?* If you answered yes, to this question feel free to contact me for more information on how you could become a part of this great program. ([sdk@juno.com](mailto: sdk@juno.com))

Some of you out there don't know if you have what it takes. Again you need to speak to a certified patroller at you area or in your region. We will be able to provide you the answers that may come to mind. Please, take a moment evaluate your skills, experience and desire. Then step forward. The Certified Program wants to add members like you. Our goal of adding three candidates a year seems small. However the task is doable and we need your participation.

Thanks for reading I look forward to hearing from some of you in the near future.

Clinic Dates for calendar:

Snowshoe	January 28-29, 2006
Massanutten	February 4-5, 2006
Hawksnest	February 11-12, 2006

Virginia Region

Bill Smith

Virginia Region Director



The Virginia Connection!!!

Well here we are, its September again. I just don't know were the time goes or what will happen next.

We are just over half way through the hurricane season, the residents of the Gulf Coast are reeling from the devastating effects of Katrina, the rest of America is beginning to feel the economic impact of what most probably will be declared one of the worst natural disasters in the history of this country and the price of gasoline nears the cost of bottled water. Throughout Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana residents are experiencing first hand what is truly an exercise in adversity, courage and character building. Let's keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers each day.

Further north, and with the summer almost gone, believe it or not, it's time to begin to start thinking about a new ski season as we all get ready to plan and schedule our refresher programs, spiffy up patrol rooms, etc.. I trust that each of you have had an opportunity to do some fun things this summer and maybe even get in a little vacation time somewhere delightful.

At the FOM you may have had a chance to meet some new folks and get reacquainted with old friends. Here in Virginia, we will once again have a strong, although mostly new leadership team. In addition to me serving as the team coach, **Peg Harris** will fill the role of Assistant Division Director. **Ron Dull**, will be the Patrol Rep at Massanutten. It certainly looks like he has things well under control there along with the ever capable **Bartek Drewnowski**. Over at Bryce, **Carl Larsen** will be the new Patrol Rep and along with **Bob Mecaughey**, will lead the charge. At The Homestead, a new Patrol Rep (yet to be determined) will guide the troops with help from **Jeff Kelly**. Last, but certainly not least, Wintergreen will have a new Patrol Rep (yet to be determined) who with **Tucker Crolius** will keep things under control there. Congratulations Carl and the other new folks and welcome back to everyone else. Of course I would be very remiss if I did not thank **Nancy**, **Ed** and **Jerry** for the fine job each of them did for their respective patrols over the past several years. My personal thanks to each of you!!!

Although we have just finished the FOM and this years awards were presented, it is never too early to begin to start to keep notes on the good deeds each of your folks do so that when the time comes to prepare awards in April, all you will have left to do is to transcribe your notes to the respective awards form. Let's make this coming season the one where we "catch someone doing something right"!!!

Over the past couple of years the Virginia resorts have focused on really improving the skiing, boarding and other snowsports experiences for our guests. There have been new slopes cut, improved terrain parks, new lifts, new snowmaking, and many other improvements far too numerous to address each one specifically. This year that trend continues in Wintergreen's Highland's area where they are cutting a whole new trail. The new "*Outer Limits*" will be an awesome expansion of their advanced terrain and a whole new skiing and boarding experience for all to enjoy.

Last year at this time I wrote about the coming of Santa in my article that I titled "Yes Virginia!!!" In that article I spoke about even though we can't see Santa, we know he is as real as fairies and will

be arriving in no time at all. I also talked about the fact that we also can't see our new ski season yet, but we know that to was well on its way.

With that in mind, once again, we know it is time to dust off the fanny packs, parka's and other equipment that is so important to what we do as patrollers. But what about you, have you gotten the cobwebs out and gotten yourself prepared for another great ski season? Are you ready??? Have you signed up for any of the scheduled education program that the Virginia folks asked for this year???

Based on your input earlier this year we scheduled many interesting and informative programs. Now, we are just waiting for you folks to write or call the instructor's and let then know which one's you would like to attend. So let's not put that task off any longer...pick up the phone and make the call or get on your computer and send your instructor an email to let him/her know you want to get in their class to improve your skills as a patroller.

**And finally, as we all learned last year,
"Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Clause"!!!
See you on the slopes or at our training programs.**

Annual Southern Division Awards

*Awards Supervisor,
John Dobson*

And What a Night It Was!



The Southern Division held its annual Fall Officer's Meeting at the Holiday Inn Wytheville on August 20-21, 2005. The highlight of the meeting was the award's presentation that followed the evening banquet. Almost 100 patrollers gathered for good food and an exciting fun-filled night, as the Southern Division again recognized it's finest! This article was prepared so that the accomplishments we honored that day and evening could be shared with each of you!

On Saturday morning, a prestigious National Appointment was presented:

For the past fifteen years, the patroller we honored had consistently served as an instructor at his patrol's annual OEC refresher. He had taught almost every new class of patrollers, and had functioned as an informal mentor for numerous candidates as they worked their way through required ski patrol training. In addition to his annual duties as an instructor, this individual had also served as his patrol's OEC refresher instructor of record, as both an OEC IT and an Instructor Development IT, and as a OEC Scene Management evaluator and advocate for many years. In his job as a school counselor, he had traveled to different area schools presenting classes on skier safety, and generally promoting skiing as a healthy activity for children.

The Southern Division was proud to present **George T. McMurray** with **National Appointment # 10266!** Also honored Saturday morning was **Mark Rees** who received the **2005 Mary K. Twomey Outstanding OEC Instructor Trainer Award.**

The Saturday meeting was filled with interesting presentations and heated debate, but the day's highlight occurred just after lunch when the following two awards were presented:

The National Ski Patrol has offered many of us the opportunity to be associated with men and women of great stature and commitment. The man we honored first on Saturday afternoon is one of these people, and has “done it all” in the ski patrol! This individual completed his 35th year as a patroller this season, and has been a member of the Ober Gatlinburg Patrol throughout his NSP life. After becoming a candidate in 1970, he worked through Basic and Senior, and received National Appointment # 5767 in 1980. In 1984, this individual became the 258th Certified Patroller in the nation. Along the way, he served as the Ober Gatlinburg Patrol Leader, and was Ober’s Mountain Manager for four years in the early 1990’s. In 1993, our newly elected Division Director Bernie Smith tapped him as his 1st Assistant Division Director, a position in which he worked with distinction for 6 years. He culminated his service to our division by leading the Certified Program from 1999-2002.

It was with sincere appreciation that the Southern Division presented **Lynn Pace** with a **Meritorious Service Award** for his profound lifelong contribution to the National Ski Patrol and the sport of skiing!

The next patroller we honored joined the Ober Gatlinburg Patrol in 1978 and actually began his ski training on Ober’s plastic snow in the off-season. He learned patrolling skills quickly and soon was awarded the status of Alpine Senior Patroller. Because of his interest in mountaineering, he also became a Nordic Senior in the mid 1980s. He has been an OEC Instructor, Avalanche Instructor, and Alpine Toboggan Instructor for most of his patrolling life. In 1994, our honoree was awarded National Appointment # 7868. He was very instrumental in the recent Southern Division reorganization, and in 2003 was awarded a Yellow merit Star as the Division Outstanding Administrative Patroller!

This individual’s most remarkable contribution to the Southern Division however, is that he sat on the Division Executive Committee for 12 years – six years as the Dixie Region Director, four years as the 2nd Assistant Division Director, and two years as the Assistant Division Director, South – spanning the terms of three Division Directors!

It was with admiration that the Southern Division presented **Dennis Slagle** with a **Meritorious Service Award** in recognition for his long-term dedication and commitment to the sport of skiing in the South!

The evening’s award festivities began with the presentation of a **Division Certificate of Appreciation** to **John Shaffer** for his dedication to the Southern Division Outdoor Emergency Care program in the Virginia Region.

Next, three Yellow Merit Stars were presented:

For the past six years, the man we first honored had served as the OEC Regional Administrator for the West Virginia Region. Upon first taking over this position, he encountered refreshers that were not monitored by OEC Instructor Trainers, Outdoor Emergency Management evaluations for the Senior Program poorly run, and little supervision and quality control for the instructors in his region. This individual organized the administrative and evaluation procedures for the region to a level that now exceeds the NSP National guidelines. The West Virginia Region OEC program now also leads the Southern Division in quality control procedures and fewer delinquent OEC refresher records.

It was a pleasure for the Southern Division to present **Joe McNeer** with a **Yellow Merit Star** for his service as the West Virginia Region OEC Administrator!

For the past five years, the patroller we honored next served as the OEC Regional Administrator for the Blue Ridge Region. Through her persistence, warm personality and leadership skills, she led the region to develop refreshers that are consistent with NSP national guidelines. Our

honoree trained new Instructor Trainers to supervise and coordinate the Instructor of Record refresher delivery. She improved the level of the OEC Course quality control through consistent monitoring and instructor trainer education. Her outstanding leadership and people skills controlled and solved many disciplinary actions involving OEC instructors.

It was a distinct privilege for the Southern Division to present **Lisa Adams** with a **Yellow Merit Star** for her service as the Blue Ridge Region OEC Administrator!

The next patroller we honored, became the Supervisor of the prestigious Southern Division Certified Program in the spring of 2002, after having served as the program's assistant supervisor for the previous three years. Under her leadership, the program gained strength and new members, continued to flourish, and fulfilled the NSP mission as one of its premier skill's groups. She reorganized the local division program record-keeping, helped create a division certified manual, and encouraged visits of Certified Patrollers from other divisions along the east coast.

With gratitude, the Southern Division presented **Leslie G. Carter** with a **Yellow Merit Star** to pay tribute to her exceptional leadership and dedication as its Certified Program Supervisor, 2002 through 2005!

It was with great sadness but respect that the Southern Division presented the next two awards:

The Southern Division lost a real friend when Bob Lang died recently in an airplane crash! He was commissioned into the United States Air Force in 1968 when he graduated from Miami University, Florida. Bob was a test pilot, a veteran of the Viet Nam war, and eventually retired from the Air Force. He was passionate about flying and died doing what he loved best, when the restored vintage WWII aircraft in which he was riding went down in Williamson, Georgia on June 16, 2005.

Bob initially joined the National Ski Patrol in 1988. After a brief hiatus away from patrolling, he rejoined the NSP in 1997 as a member of the Sky Valley Patrol. He served as the Patrol Representative at Sky Valley from 2000 to 2003. In 2002, Bob led the Sky Valley Patrol to become the Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol in the Southern Division and the Runner-Up Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol in the Nation! In so doing, he was chosen as the Southern Division Outstanding Patrol Representative that year, and was awarded a Yellow Merit Star.

With a feeling of great loss, the Southern Division awarded **Robert F. "Bob" Lang** with a **Posthumous National Certificate of Appreciation** for his contribution to skiing in the Southern Division!

The National Ski Patrol throughout its 67 year history has been blessed to have a select few outstanding members with exceptional vision, undaunting courage, and an infectious charisma. Jon Dragan was such a man. At age 18 in 1964, after having been told by West Virginia locals, "People who do it, they die," he took the risk and became the first man ever to successfully maneuver the rapids of the New River! Four years later, Jon and his brothers started the state's first commercial rafting company on the New. Today, 250,000 people a year raft the West Virginia Rivers, generating nearly 75 million dollars in revenue. An entrepreneur of the highest quality, Jon pioneered a recreation industry based on professionalism, high safety standards, and stewardship of the land, and he is felt by all to be the "father of white water rafting in West Virginia."

Jon Dragan joined the National Ski Patrol in 1992, and patrolled at Winterplace until his untimely death last February. He quickly transferred his unrestrained enthusiasm, tenacity, and boundless energy to patrolling. Jon became an OEC Instructor, an Instructor Development Instructor, an OEC Instructor Trainer, then the Assistant West Virginia Region Director, and in 2003, the West Virginia Region Director. He received the Mary Kay Toomey Award as the Outstanding Division OEC IT in 2002, and was recognized for his leadership skills the same year with LCA # 8291.

As mentioned above, Jon Dragan was a visionary. He will probably be best remembered in the National Ski Patrol as the man who established our flagship program, Outdoor Emergency Care, as the standard of training for the West Virginia River Rafting Industry. Jon was a man who could make things happen -- and he did! The West Virginia River Rafters are one of the larger affiliate organizations in the NSP.

With great admiration and respect, the Southern Division awarded **Jon A. Dragan** with a **Posthumous Distinguished Service Award** for his devotion to the Southern Division and to the National Ski Patrol!

The presentation of our Southern Division Outstanding Awards as usual created great anticipation and excitement:

Certain people become “rising stars” immediately upon joining an organization. Such is the woman we honored next. She has been invaluable in the development of the OEC Distance Learning Program. Because of the work she did with these courses, areas that were desperate for patrollers now have OEC trained personnel who were able to contribute last year. This individual is always looking for opportunities to teach and is always a part of any Instructor Development Course in her region. She teaches CPR to patrollers and to Boy Scouts and teachers in her local high school. Our honoree is in charge of OEC training for her patrol and also serves as the editor of our division newsletter.

It was a privilege for the Southern Division to present the **2005 Outstanding Instructor Award** to **Teresa Stewart**, along with a **Yellow Merit Star** for being selected as a National Outstanding Nominee! **Greg Pence** received the Runner-Up Outstanding Instructor Award!

Although the woman we now honor does not ski, after retiring from her profession as a registered nurse, she decided to become a ski patroller. So, she joined a patrol, took the OEC Course, and then also became a paramedic so that she could be of more service in the patrol aide room. Each day our honoree patrols, she is the first person in the patrol room. All first aid supplies are stocked and all forms are in their correct place. Over the past two years she has computerized her patrol's incident reports, and now tracks all paid/volunteer hours and all training exercises. This individual's greatest contribution to her patrol and to the resort in general however, is her attitude. Every injured person who enters the aide room when she is on duty, and there are hundreds each year, is greeted by her smiling face. When they leave, they depart with her compassionate touch, for she comforts the young and old alike.

It was with admiration that we presented **Nadine “Deana” Watson** with the **2005 Southern Division Mary K. Twomey Outstanding Auxiliary Award**, accompanied by a **Yellow Merit Star** for being selected as a National Outstanding Nominee!

The patroller we honored next has, over the past two years, had the unenviable task of reuniting a patrol after its mountain closed to skiing for a whole season. That year, patrol members were forced to ski at other resorts, not really knowing whether or not they would all be together again. During the ensuing two years, our honoree has not only singularly brought his patrol back together, but in so doing, the patrol has become stronger and continued to grow in reputation, so that now it is more viable than before the forced separation! His dedication, based on the hours he has spent working (in some capacity) for the patrol, is nothing less than incredible. This past season, he completed more patrol shifts than any other member, including his share of the Saturday-night-till-midnight shifts. Last year the patrol in question had the opportunity to combine “money from the mountain” and “labor from the patrol” to construct a new aide room. The new first aid facility is over 1000 square feet in size, and was totally constructed and equipped by patrol members. They did it all,

and then paid to stock it! Our honoree supervised the entire construction and also solicited financial support in excess of \$3500 for the project raw material.

The Southern Division was delighted to present the **2005 Outstanding Patrol Representative Award to Larry Bost, PLUS a Gold Merit Star and National Trophy** as the **Outstanding Patrol Representative in the Nation!** **Joe Donadio** received the Runner-Up Outstanding Patrol Representative Award!

The next patroller we honored, has been involved at every level of ski patrolling, and has done it consistently for a quarter-century. Some of his accomplishments include: key instructor for several out-of-state OEC E-Courses, past Patrol Representative, ski and toboggan instructor/evaluator, sponsor for an area learning disabled class weekend skiing retreat for the past 6 years, and the Assistant Region Director. Although this individual has been a patroller for 25 years, the hours and days he continues to devote to patrolling are extraordinary. His energy level is without parallel. He is dedicated to teaching, and the excitement he brings to each teaching session is infectious.

It was with great pride that the Southern Division presented the **2005 Outstanding Alpine Patroller Award to Hugh Jernigan**, along with a **Yellow Merit Star** for being selected as a National Outstanding Nominee! **Dave Quidort** received the Runner-Up Outstanding Alpine Patroller Award!

The last patroller we honored that night became the Patrol Director of one of our division's patrols two years ago. In this job, our honoree has held positions of escalating responsibilities and has discharged all of his duties in the highest and most professional manner possible. A few of the many new programs he has implemented at his resort include:

- *Instituted and taught the first ever OEC Course at his ski area, which graduated two volunteer and four paid patrollers.*
- *Implemented a policy that all Paid Patrollers are required to become registered with the National Ski Patrol.*
- *Implemented and coordinated day and night lift evacuation training for local fire department and rescue agencies, to supplement the resort patrollers and staff, in case of an emergency*
- *Consistently provided strong dependable leadership and motivational skills to paid patrol staff, and served as a model for those new graduates of the OEC course.*

Aside from the aspects of his job noted above, for this individual to function as an effective department head within his resort organization, it has been necessary for him to be able to run his department without close supervision, and yet meet the high goals and performance levels set by the resort for his administrative area. Our honoree consistently exceeded his resort's expectations in this area. Not only does he effectively supervise his patrollers, but he is also able to communicate his caring attitude to area customers on all levels. His enthusiasm for the Snowsports Industry and his belief in the safety and wellbeing of all skiers and riders is contagious and motivating, and he conveys this feeling to every person who comes under his care or supervision.

With a true sense of excitement, the Southern Division presented **Wayne Morgan** with the **2005 Outstanding Paid Patroller Award, AND a Gold Merit Star and National Trophy** for being selected the **2005 Outstanding Paid Patroller in the Nation!** The Runner-Up Outstanding Paid Patroller winner was **Drew Knick!**

Our final outstanding award that night went to a patrol whose resort suffered tremendous damage when remnants of three hurricanes pounded their mountain with wind and over 30 inches of rain last fall. Floods and mud slides devastated both the community and the resort. The main resort building was under water, and after the waters receded, was left with over a foot of mud on its floor, including its new first aid room. Massive sections of the ski slopes were washed away, and 70 foot trees were moved into the middle of ski runs still standing. The resort golf course was almost destroyed as well. Members of the patrol worked with the resort, not only to clean up the slopes, but

also to assist cleaning the lodge and golf course. Truckloads of rocks, trees and other debris were removed. Patroller efforts made it possible for the resort to re-open for golf in two weeks, clean up the slopes, fill ditches and washouts, remove trees, and shovel mud out of the lodge and aide room, thereby allowing the resort to open for skiing on time last December.

This patrol membership is highly motivated, and serves not only its local area, but also contributes many hours to the region, the division, and to the National Ski Patrol in general. The complete dedication to the ideals and standards of the NSP, as well as its commitment to education and public service, makes this patrol outstanding.

It was a great pleasure for the Southern Division to present the **Hawksnest Ski Patrol** with the **2005 Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol Award**, and a **Unit Citation** for being selected as a National Outstanding Nominee! The **Appalachian Patrol** received the Runner-Up Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol Award!

Let's all join together and show our real appreciation to those patrollers who were judged by their peers to be Southern Division award recipients this year. All of us – every patroller and patrol -- should participate in this process. Award recognition provides one of the few opportunities we have to offer to our associates thanks for a job well done. Be a part of this exciting, rejuvenated division program, and perhaps you too will become one of our divisions finest!

Blue Ridge Region

Mike Harris

Blue Ridge Region Director



With ski season just around the corner it's time to get prepared for our refreshers. I'm sure we are all looking forward to seeing fellow patrollers we haven't seen since last season. I hope everyone will go over their study guide and fill out your "You Are the Rescuer" portion. Arriving prepared makes the experience less stressful for everyone involved. Your fellow patrollers, who are instructors, will be attending their instructor refresher on September 10th. As instructors, they put a lot of work and effort into helping us be better prepared for our patrolling duties. We have 342 patrollers to get through refresher in Blue Ridge.

To quote our past Division Director Nici Singletary, "*There's an adage among medical professionals: When treating patients with life-threatening conditions, first take your own pulse. Emergencies are stressful for everyone involved, and in order to provide quality care rescue personnel must remain calm and approach the situation with confidence and competence.*"

Each area in the Blue Ridge Region has a policy of minimum required sessions to be patrolled. This insures proper staffing for all sessions and helps us stay sharp on the skills we practiced at refresher. When we are confident in our training we are able to relax and have much more fun patrolling with our friends.

At the patrol level we all work for and at the pleasure of our particular area management. NSP in Lakewood, Colorado does not direct nor is it responsible for our day to day patrolling actions. The roll of NSP is to provide membership services to assist patrollers and patrols to full-fill their

obligation to their area management. Our mountain travel and rescue, clinics, seminars, senior program, and evaluations are in great shape. Check the calendar for these.

**I will be looking forward to seeing each of you
at these over the upcoming season.**

Dixie Region

*Brent Bowman
Dixie Region Director*



Fall. Fall is my second favorite season. Why? Because it very shortly leads to my favorite: Winter. As I write this, each morning seems cooler than the last (maybe it's just in my head). I look at my skis and boots and think that soon I will again be zooming down the hill. But, before we get carried away with fun stuff, we need to think about the tasks of Fall, of OEC refreshers, OEC classes and On-The-Hill refreshers. This weekend I will attend the first meeting of the Atlanta refresher instructors. This group of tireless individuals will again present to the patrollers in the Atlanta area the scenarios, discussions and CPR instruction that keeps the National Ski Patrol refreshed in the Southern most portion of our region.

It's once again time for all of us to dust off the fanny pack (yes, it's way in the back of the closet, under the mask, snorkel and fins), re-stock it and prepare to demonstrate our emergency care skills. Many of us do this for a living and it seems second nature to these people. I envy them the ease with which they check pulses, read blood pressures, splint and wrap injuries. For those of us that are not doing this every day, the refresher gives each of us the opportunity to refresh our rusty skills and to begin to get ourselves back into the groove of OEC and assisting the public at the area(s) we serve as patrollers. One of the great things that we have going for us is the opportunity for continuing education within the realm of NSP. If you need to work on OEC skills guess what? You could work on becoming a Senior Patroller or assist in the OEC class. I found that when I worked to pass the Senior OEC that my first aid skills were REALLY honed. If you want to learn to ski better, lessons with really terrific skiers are available for FREE!!

This season **Brandon Olson** (Ober Gatlinburg) will be arranging *Ski Enhancement* and *Toboggan Enhancement* seminars. We currently have seminars planned at **Cataloochee, Ober Gatlinburg** and **Wolf Laurel**. These seminars will allow you to spend some time in an enjoyable learning atmosphere working with other patrollers or PSIA instructors to improve your skills. These seminars also count toward Senior Electives. Please note that some of these are being held on weekdays.

Please be sure to look at the Dixie Event Calendar in this issue. The Atlanta Refresher has moved from Nov 5 to Nov 12, other events have been added or contact names changed. All of this information will also be available on the Division Web Site.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the refreshers.

I will be attempting to go to as many as possible and if I don't make it to your refresher I will see you on the slopes during ski season.

THINK SENIOR!!!

*Dave "Q" Quidort
Division Senior Coordinator*

SENIOR, there I said it, the bad word that seems to conjure up nightmares and panic attacks with some of our Members. We have all heard it said; "*Why should I put myself through all that stuff and for what?*" I pose the question a little differently; "*Why would I **not** want to grow as a person and patroller by earning my Senior?*"

Over time, I have seen that patrollers want to be challenged; it is our nature to want to expand our skills and also take on increased roles both at the local patrol level and outside the local patrol level. The question becomes where do we find these folks and how do we get them trained. The answer is simple, *THINK SENIOR*.

Senior is meant to be a program in which the individual patroller can expand and grow their skills through taking courses offered through out the division, working on enhancing their own on snow skills related to boarding or skiing and enhancing their situational management skills, specifically managing accident scenes. Through the courses, clinics and working with others, we begin to enhance our skills, learn new tricks to use in our every day patrolling activities. The Senior program, helps develop leaderships skills that are so vital to each of us as go through our patrolling career. Earning Senior is not easy, it takes time, work and training to be successful. Senior is something to be proud of earning.

However, just simply earning Senior is just the beginning, part of being Senior is having earned something which comes with a responsibly to give back to your fellow patrollers. The give back is through helping others earn their Senior, becoming an instructor for any other specialty areas, or taking on leadership roles at the local level.

I would like to encourage every basic, auxiliary to talk to fellow Senior patrollers on their patrol about seeking out their help with earning Senior. *Begin*, to build a road map to earning your Senior. The road map begins with looking at what electives are available, select 3, then make an application early in the season to your region Senior coordinator informing them that you are ready to enter the Senior program. They will be more that willing to assist you with the program. They are a great resource and can offer guidance and advice on how to build the road map.

I am looking forward to a great season. I will be traveling around to various Clinics and Evaluations this season. I look for to meeting more of you through my travels. One of my goals is to develop a unified Division approach to the Senior program and its components. I am striving for consistency across the regions. We have started this within the Senior EMM tower of the Senior Program and will continue to work on pulling together the best practices from the various regions and pull those up to a Divisional approach.

Lastly, if you are a basic or auxiliary and looking to be challenged,
work with other patrollers from various areas and
grow your leadership skills...

– THINK SENIOR –

Tony Tingle
Division Transportation Supervisor

Here in Tennessee it is near 90 during the days, but the nights are getting cool. That makes me realize fall is upon us, and winter is not far away. This winter we have a lot of things to look forward to: reunions with old friends, meeting new friends, snow, moguls, corduroy, powder, the new Transportation Manual, and Toboggan Enhancement Seminars. The new **Transportation Manual** is a good resource for toboggan training. It is spiral-bound, small enough to fit in your boot bag, and contains useful information on running and training on toboggans for fixed-heel alpine, free-heel alpine, snowboarders, and Nordic skiers, alike. Some of the information may be presented a little differently than the way you learned it, but it is a good reference for training. As for the **Toboggan Enhancement Seminars**, these are a great way to train your patrollers. Often, we focus a lot of attention on the folks getting ready for examinations: candidates getting ready for a basic evaluation or senior candidates getting ready for a senior test. A toboggan enhancement seminar (**TES**) is a good way to get these folks and the rest of your patrol out on the snow, handles in hand, working on toboggan skills in a non-test atmosphere. The TES counts as a senior elective (a good selling point to those folks headed that way). All it takes to get one going is a willing toboggan instructor, a few participants, a couple of sleds, and space on a mountain. There is at least one TES offered in each Region this season (See the Southern Division calendar at http://www.nsp.org/divisions/southern/Southern_Division for locations and contact information). I would encourage each of you to consider attending a TES, to sharpen your skills and have a lot of fun. The details on the TES can be found on the NSP Website under the National Transportation Program, you can check it out at http://www.nsp.org/1/nsp/NSP_Education_Programs/Courses_xx_Curriculum_and_Publications/NSP_TransportationProgram.asp. If you have questions about the Transportation Program, attending a TES, or setting one up please drop me a line. (geofolks@worldnet.att.net)

I look forward to seeing you when the snow flies.



Skiing & Snowboarding Proficiency Program

Ron Clyde,
Outgoing, Division Proficiency Program Supervisor

We have recently seen demographics that indicate the Southern Ski Patrol members are all hitting our mid to late 40's. How in the world are we going to attract more young folk?

Imagine you are young again. It's not that hard, really. Go back to your senior year in HIGH SCHOOL. Recall how tough it was to scrounge up the 22 bucks to go skiing. Remember how this continued or even worsened as we entered college.

What if - - When we were that young, we truly cared about our friends and fellow students. So much so, that we commit ourselves to take and pass the Red Cross's basic first aid course - Maybe it is so that we can work at the pool as the lifeguard - treating injured, saving lives, and earning the big bucks!

What if - - We continue that commitment in our college days by taking and passing the next level course or first aid class available - such as BLS or EMT Basic? Again, treating injured, saving lives, helping our fellowman, all for the big bucks!

What if - - Exams roll around. We skip a few beers and skip a few meals and save up the 22 bucks to go with our gang on a winter ski trip right after the last test. So we end up with a lift ticket on the blue jeans and two quarters in our pocket, but we got a day on the ski hill!

Then, what if - - One of the gang is injured, is treated by a wonderful group of patrollers, and we suddenly see exactly what we want to do with all that first aid training. So we asked one of those jacketed guys, "How do I join the Ski Patrol?" A very busy health care provider tersely replies, "You goin' to need a whole bunch of them ski lessons first, young un!"

So we stick our hand back in our pocket, think about the \$18 lesson fee, and rub those two quarters together. . . And say, "Oh well, no way."

What if - - Our patrol, short on members, forever loses that committed 'young un'?

There is a better outcome. What if there was a group of trained and certified Snowsports instructors who would take that young-un under their mentorship. What if they would GIVE AWAY those \$18 lessons? The most expensive "*free lift ticket*" you will ever own is the one with your photo and the words, "*Member, National Ski Patrol.*" The same can be said for those "*free lessons,*" but we don't have to tell the young-un that quite yet, do we? What that young-un and **all** our jacketed members need to know that the Southern Division, National Ski Patrol has a ski school. And that the school and all of its instructors exist simply to:

- Improve the skiing/snowboarding proficiency of every candidate up to the Basic Patroller level as established by the ski area where that candidate is registered. It is important to note that it is not the goal of this program to determine whether a candidate's skiing or snowboarding skills are at a Basic Patroller level for their ski area. We can however, offer a recommendation to the Patrol Representative that a candidate be allowed to take the skiing/snowboarding portion of the Basic Patroller Evaluation.
- Further, to facilitate Snowsports clinics for ALL members, to the end of continuing education and advancement beyond Basic skill sets to Senior and Certified levels.

Take advantage of these dedicated, committed instructors. Improve your skill levels, change the demographics of your patrol, or just let a dedicated young un hang on to the two quarters. If he comes on board with us, he will need them! To continue treating injured, saving lives, and earning the big bucks!



Rob Raff

Archivist/ Historian Supervisor

DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT?

- * Have you ever sat around the patrol room swapping stories?
- * Have you ever heard someone tell a story about a past experience and you just couldn't believe it?
- * Have you heard the story about the couple that met while patrolling?
- * Did you know that (put name here) served in World War II and is still on the patrol?
- * Do you have questions about the patrol like: which patroller has the longest service record, or which family has had the most patrollers in it?

If you have had any of these this experiences, or know answers to these questions, we would all like to know.

We have a rich history in the *Southern Division*, both on and off the mountain, but the simple fact is that almost none of us know what that history is. **So** how do we get and save these stories for future generations to enjoy? We could write a book, but let's face it -- that is not really going to happen overnight. So let's start small. How about one article per issue of the *Southern Cross*? That is only 3 stories a year! If we can do this we will have a book of short stories in less than 10 years!

This is the part were I ask for your help, and that help can come in many different ways. **You** could interview a patroller, get their story, write it down and we will put it in the *Southern Cross*. **You** could simply drop me an e-mail (r Raff@etconnect.com) with a story idea and we will find someone to write it down. **You** could sit down and interview a patroller, and then send me the photos, notes, or recording.

Let's start saving our history now. I'll start with the first interview and article for the next issue. How easy is that! You don't have a do a thing, and then if we can get one article in the next 4 months we will have a great start! Join me in celebrating the history and the people of the Southern Division.

It is your patrol...let's hear about it!



Photos from the archive....can you identify these folks?

Let Rob Raff know at r Raff@etconnect.com.

Southern Division Telecommunications

Communications Supervisor
Rick Woodlee



This would be a great time to purchase your own radio for use in patrol or special emergency operations. Ski season and Christmas is just around the corner.

There are a number of good Motorola, Relm, Kenwood, etc. radios on the market. One of my goals is to search out more sources of radio equipment. I attended the Shelby Hamfest over Labor Day weekend; and there, I saw many radios that can be used in the ski industry service. There were several vendors and individuals sold Motorola, Kenwood, Relm, and Icom radios that are in great shape at some deeply discounted prices. I know finding the right model radio at an acceptable price is time consuming and frustrating; so, let me give you some dealers/individuals that I have been able to get great equipment at my price:

1. Kimball Communications—828-697-6232 or bskimball@bellsouth.net.
Danny Kimball sells Kenwood, Motorola, and Relm. He can also provide parts and service.
2. Michael G. Fambrough—256-543-2130 home; 256-458-0828 cell
Email: KD4TGB@bellsouth.net
1501 Bellevue Drive, Gadsden, AL 35904
Michael sells Motorola and Kenwood for a good discount price.
3. For your batteries, call Batteries America 800-308-4805
www.batteriesamerica.com

There are a number of folks who would like to upgrade their radios; however, they need to sell their older Henrys, Jobcons, and other types of radios in order to assist in paying for the new one.

Well, time just rushes by, then, the next thing you know it's time to dig out the winter cloths, skis, fanny packs, and radios. Looks like everything in this list needs attention, especially the radios.

My suggestions are as follows:

1. Clean exterior of radio.
2. Open the battery compartment, take the battery out, look for corrosion; then, clean the battery compartment and the battery contacts.
3. Put battery back in the radio if it is not corroded; then, recharge the radio for 14 hours.
4. Cycle the radio by turning on for 8 hours; then, recharge back up for 10 hours.
5. If the radio does not work OK, take it to a repair shop now, before the season starts.
6. This gives the technicians time to order and receive parts and to fix the radio to like new condition.

7. Take the radio to someone who is certified to check the key operating parameters to verify that the radio is operating in accordance with the FCC rules and regulations. (the primary operating parameters are as follows: frequency tolerance, spurious radiation, modulation, and power output.)

A Few Notes on Radio Communications and Operations:

1. Never use profanity or improper communications on the air.
2. Never interfere with other users of the frequency. (example, Rescue and EMS units, ambulances, law enforcement, etc. This is the quickest way to get a pink slip from the FCC.)
3. Identify yourself by saying your call letters at the end of your conversation or every 30 min. which ever comes first.
4. Post a copy of your FCC license in the patrol room.
5. Be responsible to clean and recharge the radio after use.

One can use the NSPS frequencies during training, examinations, searches, intra communications with other patrols, rescue and search teams, or anything in the special emergency realm. If you are using the Ski Areas' frequencies, I suggest you post a copy of the Ski Area's license close to your base radio; so, there is no question about frequency authorization and use.

Please contact me if I can assist you in any of your telecommunications programs.

Phone: 828-693-1554

N4FAT@juno.com

Patroller Enrichment Seminar (PES)

Mary Underwood

Patroller Enrichment Supervisor

Article by Cindy Diehl

Patroller Enrichment Seminar

Have you ever wondered if there was more to Ski Patrol than just fixing bloody noses and chasing down out of bound skiers? **Where** can I get information on furthering my education or leadership goals? Well ask no more, the **Patroller Enrichment Seminar (PES)** is here it answer all of these questions and much more. There are four core modules that make up PES; Patrol Facilities Management (How can I make my patrol aid room better, more efficient and effective), Administrative Policies (Where can I go to learn about the various policies and procures that govern my patrol, region, and division?), Expanded Patroller Services (Can I add value to my mountain by introducing a first aid course to ski instructors?), and NSP education and leadership opportunities (Am I interested in teaching mountaineering or being the Southern Division director? And what qualifications do I need to achieve them?). PES, like its name suggests enriches the patroller with the knowledge and skills in order to expand his/her role in NSP.



PES is taught in the Southern Division by Mary Underwood and Cindy Diehl. There will be class taught on December 10th at the Homestead by Cindy Diehl. It will be day of not only learning but of exchanging ideas and opinions from other patrols around Southern Division. So sign up for a day of lively discussion and interchange and (the best yet), *PES counts as a Senior elective!* Anyone interested in attending the class in December, please contact Cindy at chuff@erols.com. Anyone interested in additional classes throughout the rest of the year please contact Cindy or Mary at jnu@bellsouth.net.



PES Classmates at Sugar Mountain Course - June 25, 2005 – Mary Underwood Instructor

Cataloochee Happenings

Tom Raudorf, PR

Last season was one of considerable accomplishments by the Cataloochee Ski Patrol. An extensive renovation of the patrol room was carried out by **Wayne Morgan**, our weekday Patrol Director, giving us more room for patients, emergency equipment, and space for the patroller changing area. This was a much appreciated improvement in working conditions. The Cataloochee OEC refresher last year included a visit by the MAMA rescue helicopter based in Asheville thanks to our **Trey Kennedy** who organized the visit. The helicopter team presented a comprehensive overview of the mechanics of bringing in a rescue helicopter from the crew point of view.



As we all know, the life-blood of a patrol is its members, and constant attention needs to be paid to attract new high quality prospective patrollers. In this regard our existing membership really stepped up to the plate. **Veronika Gunter** agreed to be the “poster girl” for a new recruiting poster (on the left) and our “caption contest” resulted in many great entries. The winner, decided by a vote among the patrol membership, was entered by **Randy Avery**. With great ceremony we had a “public hanging” of the poster in the lodge at the end of last season where it can be seen in all its glory this coming winter. Cataloochee management gave wonderful support to these efforts including free ski lessons from the Ski School to our new candidates, many thanks to **Chris Bates**, General Manager and **John Cossaboom**, Ski School Director. This program will continue full force during the coming winter. Last season’s Senior program at Cataloochee was strong thanks to leadership by **Bob Brewster** with the area hosting an OEC Sr. Clinic and Evaluation as well as a Sr. S & T clinic. Bob did such a terrific job and deserves many kudos for his efforts.

Fund raising was a great success thanks in part to Cataloochee management who provided lift ticket vouchers which patrollers could use to solicit donations for the patrol. **Joan Boyer** coordinated this program which was no mean task considering the spread of patrollers over the whole Southeast. Fund raising is always a priority for a patrol, allowing us to buy new equipment such as radios, toboggans, and other equipment and every opportunity must be taken. As an example, this past August 6-7 the patrol (thanks again **Wayne Morgan**) participated in the Bele-Chere Festival in Asheville manning a beverage booth allowing us to raise more funds for equipment.

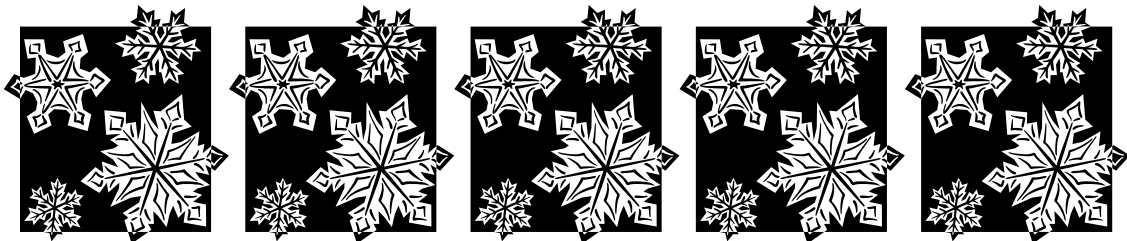


This past summer **Melanie Wolford** organized a trip to Portillo, Chile, for a ski vacation. Those of us who were fortunate enough to go had a fabulous time. This is an absolutely gorgeous part of the world and what a great break from a long, hot, sweaty summer. To get the participants in the photo to stop and pose for even a minute was no mean feat. To poorly paraphrase a recent country tune, “*There is always skiing somewhere in the world.....*”

While the patrollers in the photo were checking out the slopes in the Southern hemisphere, **Ann Christenson** and **Wayne Morgan** were back home preparing their OEC courses for

this summer and fall. At this writing (Sept 8, 2005) these courses have been underway for some time and are extremely well attended (thanks to our aggressive candidate sign-up program last winter). For the coming season the area has built a new top shack to replace the old one (aka Dunaway Hilton) which has served us well for so many years. It has been suggested that we might have to have another naming contest to give it an appropriate moniker. As always **Cataloochee** management has focused on snowmaking as being key to area operation. Improvements over the already excellent snowmaking capability (we actually operated last MLK weekend) are being put into place for the coming season. We hope that this coming winter is as good as the Farmer’s Almanac predicts; if it isn’t, our snowmakers will be ready.

Readers will note that **Wayne Morgan’s** name has been associated with many activities mentioned in this write-up. He has been one of Cataloochee’s greatest human assets and has the gratitude of the entire Cataloochee patrol for his efforts on behalf of NSP, area management, and our own local patrol. His accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. At the recent Fall Officer’s Meeting in Wytheville, Wayne was presented the ***Paid Patroller of the Year Award***, not for just the Dixie Region, not even for the Southern Division but ***Nationwide***. It is on that note that we at Cataloochee wish all areas and all patrollers a great experience in their upcoming refreshers and a wonderful cold, hard, long, and snowy winter.



Mountain Travel and Rescue in the Blue Ridge Region (8.5" snow, 22 degrees, 192mph winds!)

*Mark Rees,
Beech Mountain Ski Patrol*

On April 2nd and 3rd, 2005, Beech Mountain hosted the outdoor portion of a **Mountain Travel and Rescue 1** course. To the best of our knowledge this was the first MTR course of any kind held in the Blue Ridge Region since 1994...11 years! This one was done with updated technology and used the internet for the initial classroom portion of the class. The class was timed to occur as soon as the ski slopes had closed for possibly a little better. Unfortunately (and weather was calm. The weather of Grandfather away, elevation 5,964 wind speed of 192.06 mph on Saturday night! Fred's Beech) reported a low and snowfall of 8.5 to say, the group about winter and got more than learning".



(Terry Loges (Sugar), Margaret Rees (Beech)
and Jean Webb (Sugar) in their "emergency Shelter")

Photo – Mark Rees

the year and weather moved in. fortunately), the anything but station at the top Mountain (8 miles ft) recorded a mph on Saturday Mercantile (top of temperature of 22 inches! Needless learned first hand mountaineering just "book

The course began and ended at the Beech Mountain Ski Patrol with initial and final classroom subjects covered there. Otherwise, it was held on the "back side" of Beech in a part of the Pisgah National Forest the locals call "The West Bowl". Due to the predicted weather, a campsite was established at an elevation of 4200 ft, 1300 ft below the summit of Beech Mountain, in another protected "bowl" area, in amongst the trees and off the ridges.

Approximately 35 people initially expressed interest in the course and a full 25 registered. However, as the date drew closer and the weather predictions worsened, most cancelled or no-showed. We had 15 hardy souls participate in total. From Sugar Mountain, we had **Jean Webb, Terry Loges, Michael Milligan** and **Norris Woody**. From Beech we had **Tom Watson, Margaret Rees, Elizabeth Lott, Josh Jones, Larry Waters, Dee Thomas, Patrick Rees, Mark Rees, Ben Jones, Sabrina Young** and **Collin Waldron**. **Tom Watson, Mark Rees, Norris Woody** and **Dee Thomas** all instructed.

This was a collaborative effort with Outward Bound (Dee Thomas) providing ropes, compasses and equipment; Sugar Mountain (Norris Woody) providing Stokes litter; Beech Mountain (Gil Adams / Tom Watson) providing facilities, radios and gear; and Gil Adams providing his personal firewood which he cut for us and which we cached in the West Bowl two days earlier.

The conditions were "advanced": the snow was deep and continuous, the wind was howling, the temperatures cold. However, the group maintained a fire for heat, food for metabolism, tarps for wind and snow protection, and held discussions and hand-on activity throughout the day and into the night. As usual, the most fun activity was the Emergency Shelter, where teams practiced their survival skills and used their "10 essentials" to (simulate) keep all of their team members alive

overnight. Cord, space blankets, tarps, lighter, candle, knife, etc. were very helpful in this exercise, as all discovered.

Even with the extreme conditions, the situation was “controlled”, making this an excellent learning experience. There is little chance that many of the group will experience these extreme conditions again, making all other winter camping for them “a piece of cake”.

Due to the overwhelming interest, we are currently scheduling a concurrent MTR1 and MTR2 course for November 11, 12 & 13, 2005. Look on the National web site or the Southern Cross in the fall for more information. Or more directly, please view: <http://home.mindspring.com/~markrees/>.

In Memory
Robert F. Lang
1947-2005

On June 16, 2005, the Ski Patrol experienced a tremendous loss when our friend and team member **Bob Lang** died in an airplane crash. Bob was a member of the **Sky Valley Ski Patrol** and was its former Patrol Representative. He is survived by his wife Jane and son Steve.

Bob joined the Ski Patrol in 1988, and after a brief hiatus, rejoined as a member of the Sky Valley Patrol in 1997. Bob served as Patrol Representative at Sky Valley from 2000-2003. During that time, he led the Sky Valley Patrol the Southern Division Small Patrol of the Year award in 2002, and in doing so earned himself the Patrol Representative of the Year award that same year.

Bob was an OEC Instructor and Instructor Trainer, and each year took a lead role in OEC training classes and OEC refreshers in the Atlanta area. He was also an active volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, and the Georgia Special Olympics, at which he served as a medic every year.

But Bob's real passion was flying. He always knew he wanted to be a pilot, joined the Air Force ROTC in college and was commissioned in the United States Air Force when he graduated from the University of Miami in 1968. He retired from the U.S. Air Force as a pilot and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. Bob worked at Lockheed-Martin as a Flight Safety Engineer. He was a member of the Lockheed Flying Club and the Dixie Wing of the Commemorative Air Force. He was passionate about flying and died doing what he loved, when the restored vintage WWII aircraft he was riding in went down in Williamson, Georgia.



However, the real tribute to Bob comes in the form of memories from his friends in the Southern Division. Here are a few:

- *Bob was the reason I became an instructor, passed my Senior OEC and entered the Senior program. He always found the best in people and motivated them into action. He touched many of our lives and we were the better for it.*
- *Bob was the reason for Sky Valley receiving the Small Patrol Award for the Southern division. He pushed me to get my PSIA level 1 to help the patrol. He truly was about building the patrol and making us all perform at a higher level. Bob will be remembered.*
- *Bob was a good friend... one of the few that would tell it like it was. When I needed an instructor to fly with, he was the one I would call because I knew that he would not let me off easy and I would frequently learn something new or a better way of doing something. We both shared the same passion for flying and skiing. I will miss him*
- *What a sad and tragic thing... He was a wonderful instructor... I had him as an instructor for Outdoor Emergency Care---and he was incredibly dedicated to the service of National Ski Patrol. I am shocked and saddened at this loss.*
- *Whenever Bob held a conversation with anyone, he always mentioned Jane. Bob and Jane were absolutely devoted to each other.*
- *I am just stunned and numb. We will all be a little less after this.*
- *Sky Valley is a family and our family will miss him dearly.*



Bob Lang (center) flanked by Sky Valley Patrol members, receiving the Outstanding Patrol Rep and Outstanding Small Patrol awards.

FOR LADIES ONLY

**Skier enhancement
Toboggan enhancement**

February 11,12 ---2006
Snowshoe/Silver Creek

Cost: \$75

Lift ticket included

Lodging on your own

SPECIAL DEAL

INN AT Snowshoe Mountain

\$90 per night per room

To pre-register call

304-572-6713

Jan Starr

Minimum number of 18 required

Deadline January 6, 2006

Southern Division Calendar

Month	Date	Event	Location	Contact	Comments
SEE REGIONAL ROSTERS FOR Educational Courses for 2005-2006					
Southern Cross Deadlines					
2006					
JAN	20	MIDWINTER SOUTHERN CROSS DEADLINE		SOUTHERN CROSS EDITOR	Teresa Stewart - sceditor@bellsouth.net
MAY	15	SPRING SOUTHERN CROSS DEADLINE		SOUTHERN CROSS EDITOR	Teresa Stewart - sceditor@bellsouth.net
SEP	6	FALL SOUTHERN CROSS DEADLINE		SOUTHERN CROSS EDITOR	Teresa Stewart - sceditor@bellsouth.net
Division Meeting Events					
2006					
JAN	21	MID WINTER EC MEETING	TBD	TBD	EC WILL ONLY MEET IF DD CALLS MEETING
MAY	6	SPRING EC PLANNING MEETING	WYTHEVILLE	HOLIDAY INN 276-228-5483	MEETING BEGINS AT 8AM
JUL	22	SUMMER EC PLANNING MEETING	TBD	TBD	EC WILL ONLY MEET IF DD CALLS MEETING
AUG	18	EC MEETING @ FOM	WYTHEVILLE	HOLIDAY INN 276-228-5483	MEETING BEGINS AT 7PM
AUG	19-20	FALL BOD MEETING	WYTHEVILLE	HOLIDAY INN 276-228-5483	MEETING BEGINS AT 8:30AM
Division Reporting Deadlines					
2006					
BUDGET SUBMISSIONS					
APR	15	NEXT SEASONS BUDGETS REQUESTS	ANNUALLY	JIM UNDERWOOD 865-483-3675	jnu@bellsouth.net
JUL	1	FINAL YEAR END BUDGET SUBMISSIONS	ANNUALLY	JIM UNDERWOOD 865-483-3675	jnu@bellsouth.net
JUL	1	PATROL FINANCIAL REPORTS (990'S)	ANNUALLY	JIM UNDERWOOD 865-483-3675	jnu@bellsouth.net
AWARDS SUBMISSIONS					
APR	1	AWARDS NOMINATIONS	ANNUALLY	SEND TO CHAIN OF COMMAND ON APPLICATION, SIGNED IN ORDER. Email to JDobson4@aol.com	
ANYTIME		NAT'L OR LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS		SEND TO CHAIN OF COMMAND LISTED ON APPLICATION - SIGNED IN PROPER ORDER.	
END OF YEAR REPORT SUBMISSIONS					
APR	1	PATROL REPS END OF YEAR REPORT	ANNUALLY	MORGAN ARMSTRONG, DD,ADD,RD	RMASP@Adelphia.net
APR	1	OFFICERS END OF YEAR REPORT	ANNUALLY	RESPECTIVE SUPERVISOR	
APR	1	SUPERVISORS END OF YEAR REPORT	ANNUALLY	RESPECTIVE SUPERVISOR, DD	

Blue Ridge Region Calendar 2005-2006

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>
OEC Courses and Challenges held in Region for 2005-2006					
OCT	22,23	OEC Challenge	Sugar Mtn	Larry Fleming 828-437-8448 lmfeveski@hci.net	8:30 am
OEC Events held in Region for 2005-2006					
NOV	5	OEC Refresher-Carolina Highlands	Banner Elk	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	Lees McRae College
Region Events for 2005-2006					
NOV	11,13	Mountain Travel and Rescue 1 & 2	Tablerock, NC	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	On-Line Registration, email Mark Rees
DEC	3	Senior Emergency Mgmt. Clinic	Beech Mtn	Lisa Adams 828-387-2892 fkinteriors@skybest.com	8:30 am
DEC	4	Region S & T Examiners Clinic	Appalachian	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
DEC	10	Toboggan Seminar	Beech Mtn	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am Alternate date Dec 17th
JAN	7	Senior S & T Clinic	Beech Mtn	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
JAN	8	Basic S & T Evaluation	Sugar Mtn	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
JAN	21	Senior Emergency Mgmt. Evaluation	Beech Mtn	Lisa Adams 828-387-2892 fkinteriors@skybest.com	8:30 am
JAN	22	Basic S & T Evaluation	Beech Mtn	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
JAN	28,29	Senior S & T Evaluation	Hawksnest	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30am
FEB	11	Basic S & T Evaluation	Hawksnest	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
MAR	5	Basic S & T Evaluation	Appalachian	Mark Rees 704-896-0747 Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am

Dixie Region Calendar 2005-2006

Month	Date	Event	Location	Contact	Comments
OEC Courses and Challenges held in Region for 2005-2006					
DEC	3-4	OEC Challenge	Cataloochee, NC	Ann Christenson 770-394-5869 annchristenson@bellsouth.net	
OEC Events held in Region for 2005-2006					
OCT	8	OEC Instructor Refresher/Cataloochee	Western Carolina	Steve McCarragher 864-226-0019 mac001@charter.net	
OCT	15	OEC Instructor Refresher / Gatlinburg	Gatlinburg, TN	Jimmy Kuneman 865-850-7547 drikuneman@aol.com	
NOV	5	OEC Instructor Refresher / Wolf Laurel	Asheville, NC	Bill Boughton 828-645-8670 bill@boughton.com	
NOV	5	OEC Refresher @ Cataloochee	Cataloochee, NC	Steve McCarragher 864-226-0019 mac001@charter.net	
NOV	6	Cataloochee On the Hill	Cataloochee, NC	Dan Greene 770-640-6396 d.greene@mindspring.com	
NOV	12	Atlanta OEC Refresher	Atlanta, GA	Mike Goggs michaels1stclass@bellsouth.net	
NOV	12	OEC Refresher @ Gatlinburg	Gatlinburg, TN	Jimmy Kuneman 865-850-7547 drikuneman@aol.com	
NOV	13	Gatlinburg On the Hill	Gatlinburg, TN	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197 bnoswoosh@aol.com	
NOV	19	OEC Refresher @ Wolf Laurel	Asheville, NC	Bill Boughton 828-645-8670 bill@boughton.com	
NOV	20	Wolf Laurel On the Hill	Wolf Laurel, NC	Bill Boughton 828-645-8670 bill@boughton.com	
JAN	3	Smoky Mtn Nordic On the Hill	Smoky Mtn NP	Andy Meachan 865-494-8838 ammeacha@icx.net	
CPR Events for 2005-2006					
OCT	TBD	Sky Valley CPR Refresher	Atlanta, GA	Sylvia Talley 770-552-8968 snowmedic@mindspring.com	
OCT	TBD	Atlanta CPR Refresher	Atlanta, GA	Melanie Wofford 770-426-4182 mwolf39121@aol.com	
NOV	4	Cataloochee CPR Refresher	Maggie Valley, NC	Wayne Morgan 828-926-0258 X 316 papawfwm@bellsouth.net	
NOV	13	Gatlinburg CPR Refresher	Gatlinburg, TN	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197 bnoswoosh@aol.com	
NOV	TBD	Asheville CPR Refresher	Asheville, NC	TBD	
Educational Events for 2005-2006					
JAN	7	Toboggan Enhancement Clinic	Gatlinburg, TN	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197 bnoswoosh@aol.com	
JAN	12	Toboggan Enhancement Clinic	Cataloochee, NC	Tom Raudorf 865-483-5818 craudorf@aol.com	
JAN	20	Ski Enhancement Clinic	Wolf Laurel, NC	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197 bnoswoosh@aol.com	
JAN	28	Toboggan Enhancement Clinic	Wolf Laurel, NC	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197 bnoswoosh@aol.com	
JAN	29	Ski Enhancement Clinic	Cataloochee, NC	Tom Raudorf 865-483-5818 craudorf@aol.com	
MAR	6	MTR Fundamentals	TBF	John Parker 828-648-1931	
MAR	7	Avalanche Fundamentals	Cullowhee, NC	Dennis Slagle 919-528-9279 dslagle2@nc.rr.com	
FEB	11-12	Women's Only Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-2103 jjstarr@snowshoemtn.com	
Region Events for 2005-2006					
DEC	1-4	Atlanta Ski Swap Sale	Atlanta, GA	Ann Christenson 770-394-5869 annchristenson@bellsouth.net	
JAN	8	Examiner's Proficiency Clinic	Gatlinburg, TN	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197 bnoswoosh@aol.com	
JAN	15	Senior S & T Clinic	Gatlinburg, TN	Bob Brewster 828 684-8100 bobbrewster@charter.net	
JAN	22	Sr OEC Clinic	Cataloochee, NC	Bob Brewster 828 684-8100 bobbrewster@charter.net	
FEB	5	SR S&T Evaluation	Gatlinburg, TN	Bob Brewster 828 684-8100 bobbrewster@charter.net	
FEB	26	SR OEC Evaluation	Cataloochee, NC	Bob Brewster 828 684-8100 bobbrewster@charter.net	
Certified Events for 2005-2006					
MAR	18	Certified Pre-Evaluation Clinic	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1262	
MAR	19-20	Certified Evaluation	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1262	

Virginia Region Calendar 2005-2006

Month	Date	Event	Location	Contact	Comments
OEC Courses and Challenges held in Region for 2005-2006					
NOV	5	OEC Course Starts @ Massanutten	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954 bdrewnowski@massresort.com	
OEC Events held in Region for 2005-2006					
OCT	15	Wintergreen On the Hill	Wintergreen	Tucker Crolius 434-325-8060 tcrolius@aol.com	
OCT	16	OEC Refresher / Wintergreen	Rockfish Vly Sch	Ted Forbes 434-979-7586 ted.forbes@capitalone.com	
OCT	21	Pre-refresher @ Homestead	Homestead	Bill Smith 757-851-1581 skibill@widomaker.com	
OCT	22	OEC Refresher @ Homestead	Homestead	Bill Smith 757-851-1581 skibill@widomaker.com	
OCT	29	Massanutten On the Hill	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954 bdrewnowski@massresort.com	
OCT	30	OEC Refresher @ Massanutten	Massanutten	Will Drury 540-421-4890 mgb72wi@planetcomm.net	
Educational Events for 2005-2006					
DEC	10	Patroller Enrichment Seminar	Homestead	Cindy Diehl 703-494-9490 chuff@starpower.net	
JAN	15	Skier Enhancement Seminar	Wintergreen	John Shaffer 703-719-5945 john.shaffer@cfsc.army.mil	Min = 6, \$10.00 fee
JAN	28	Toboggan Enhancement Seminar	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8485 heardmtn05@earthlink.net	Min = 6, \$10.00 fee
FEB	4	Transportation Instructor Course	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8485 heardmtn05@earthlink.net	Min = 6, \$10.00 fee
MAR	12	Avalanche Fundamentals & Rescue	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8485 heardmtn05@earthlink.net	Min = 6, \$10.00 fee
Region Events for 2005-2006					
NOV	12	Massanutten Ski Swap	Massanutten	Kenny Hess 540-289-4955 Kenhess@adelphia.net	
NOV	25	Wintergreen Ski Swap	Wintergreen	Jim McCaslin 703-250-5193 mccaslin_jim@hotmail.com	
DEC	10	Massanutten Transfer Orientation	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954 bdrewnowski@massresort.com	
DEC	11	Wintergreen Transfer Orientation	Wintergreen	Ed Pouncey 703-266-2943 Ed.Pouncey@FairfaxCounty.gov	
JAN	7	Senior Ski Clinic – Full Day	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954 bdrewnowski@massresort.com	
JAN	8	Senior Toboggan Clinic – Full Day	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954 bdrewnowski@massresort.com	
JAN	21	Senior Emergency Management Clinic	Bryce	T Harris 804-320-1901 tandper@netzero.net	
JAN	22	Senior S & T Clinic	Massanutten	Mike Fisher 434-296-8485 heardmtn05@earthlink.net	
FEB	4	Certified Operations and OEC Clinic	Massanutten	Leslie Carter 434-295-4463 cartrplmbg@aol.com	
FEB	5	Certified S & T Clinic	Massanutten	Leslie Carter 434-295-4463 cartrplmbg@aol.com	
FEB	25	Senior Emergency Management Eval	Wintergreen	T Harris 804-320-1901 tandper@netzero.net	
FEB	26	Senior S & T Evaluation	Wintergreeg	Mike Fisher 434-296-8485 heardmtn05@earthlink.net	
MAR	12	Massanutten Picnic	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954 bdrewnowski@massresort.com	

West Virginia Region Calendar 2005-2006

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>
OEC Courses and Challenges held in Region for 2005-2006					
NOV	22	OEC Course Starts	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713 mvfarm@frontiernet.net	
DEC	17	OEC Evaluation	Winterplace	Walt Watson 304-253-6963 dewawatson@msn.com	
JAN	29	Basic OEC Evaluation	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713 mvfarm@frontiernet.net	
FEB	4	Senior Emergency Management Clinic	Winterplace	Bud Frantz 304-574-3768	
MAR	4	Senior Emergency Management Evaluation	Timberline	Janette Bennett 304-866-4925	
Educational Events for 2005-2006					
JAN	8	Toboggan Enhancement Seminar	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713 mvfarm@frontiernet.net	
JAN	7	Ski Enhancement Seminar	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713 mvfarm@frontiernet.net	
DEC	10	Instructor Development Course	Winterplace	Greg Rash 502-423-0261 greg.rash@insightbb.com	
DEC	17	Ski Trainers Workshop	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713 mvfarm@frontiernet.net	
FEB	11	Women's Only Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713 mvfarm@frontiernet.net	
Regional Events for 2005-2006					
JAN	9	Basic Telemark Clinic	Winterplace	Tom Wagnor 304-787+3221	
JAN	21	Certified Clinic	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1262	
JAN	30	Basic S & T Evaluation	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713 mvfarm@frontiernet.net	
FEB	5	Senior S & T Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713 mvfarm@frontiernet.net	
FEB	27	Senior S & T Clinic	Winterplace	Bud Frantz 304-574-3768	
MAR	5	Senior S & T Evaluation	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713 mvfarm@frontiernet.net	
MAR	6	Basic S & T Evaluation	Timberline	Steve Checkko 304-776-8540	
MAR	17	Certified Pre-Evaluation Clinic	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1262	
MAR	18-19	Certified Evaluation	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1262	

Southern Division Roster 2005-2006

Executive Committee Members

Division Director

Neil Booth (Shelley) (03)
4769 Brent Court
Mableton, GA 30126-1446
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(F) 770-941-4268
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Past Division Director

Nici Singletary (John) (03)
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Southern Cross is published three times a year—Fall, Mid-winter and Spring. Articles and photos are encouraged and appreciated. With photos, please include caption information. If at all possible, please include a photo of the author with articles. Submission deadline for the Fall issue is September 12, 2005.

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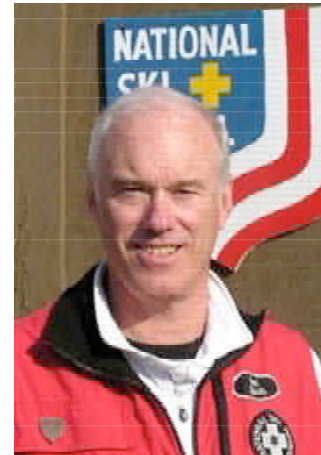
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The Mogul Field Season – What a Run!

Neil Booth, Division Director

This year was like skiing through a mogul field in many ways.

I think I can best describe what I mean by describing one interesting day on the slopes. We were booted up and ready to go to the slopes when we heard a rumble of thunder. As we looked out the door, we saw a lightning flash and a few seconds later the very loud crack of thunder. The next thing we did was call management to delay the



opening. Nature took care of that by blowing the fuses on two of the lifts. We waited about an hour and a half before the lifts were fixed and 30 minutes had passed since the last thunderous sounds. We opened and had a few hours of skiing before the next events of the day. As we looked out of the top shack, we saw a bolt of lightning again. We summoned management to inform them, but once again, before we could raise them, another thunderous roar and the lifts stopped again. We were fortunate that this was a Monday and we did not have many guests on the lifts. Management informs us the lift circuits were blown again, but they would have the auxiliary motor started so they could run the lift to get the guests off. Now starts the strong gusts of wind, followed by heavy rain, followed by hail! The last person off the lift was a 6-year-old girl, crying for very obvious reasons. We escorted her down and got her to her mother who further consoled her. Now, we sat around for another 2 hours while the lifts were repaired and the 30-minute lightning cessation period. Opened again, but closing in less than two hours! The day simply could not make up its mind on what the weather was to be. I quickly realized this day pretty much summed up the entire season. Most of our resorts had a very good holiday season, which was very encouraging. However, warm weather set in and did not leave for a longer than usual period. This caused some areas to actually close before MLK weekend. Those that managed to stay open were marginal. I would say “barely”, but that is a bad word in our industry! Cold weather returned almost in time for MLK

weekend. Two days earlier would have made a lot of resorts happier, but, our industry, resorts and members are tough and we made it through MLK. What happened next? You guessed it, warm weather right before Presidents weekend. Now the season begins to wind down and we finally get colder weather and snow! So, do you see how our season was like skiing through a mogul field? The mogul run/season begins with challenges and lasts until the run/season is over. You must anticipate and handle what is in front of you. Yes, we are all resilient and adaptable people!

No matter how challenging the season, our members do a *wonderful* job with all the tasks they have before them. We all have to balance our personal lives with our love for patrolling, and the sport. The moguls are plentiful, but you keep on going, excepting the seasonal challenges that go along with being a patroller. Your resorts appreciate your excellent services and efforts.

This season concludes my first term as your Division Director. Now begins the next two-year term. The first two years were challenging, but each and every member made it possible for me to consider re-election. Working with all the talent on each patrol, with the regions and division has been wonderful. All resorts and events that I have been able to visit have been very encouraging, rewarding and hospitable. I feel like I actually have 19 resorts that I am a primary member of. Let me thank each and every one of you for making this possible.

Now, a review of what was done or accomplished this past season in Southern:

First, the Board of Directors for Southern, your elected officials, approved the elimination of the Spring Officers Meeting, held in April of each year. This meeting was a season's wrap up meeting where we reviewed the past season, planned for next season, and held our Division Awards Banquet. It was further approved, to hold the Awards Banquet at the Fall Officers Meeting, held in August. It was also approved that the meeting would be a day and a half long to accommodate one annual meeting. If you all recall, my promise has been to make changes that are not noticed by membership, or seamless in the execution or transition. What this does is give your Patrol Representatives, Region and Division Staff a weekend back. It may not sound like much, but if you consider each attendee drives on average 417 miles, round trip and spend two nights at the meeting site, it is a lot! Personally, I appreciate the dedication and fine efforts of all BOD members for representing your interests at our meetings.

Second, the Executive Committee, comprised of the Division Director, Past Division Director, 4 Assistant Division Directors, 5 Region Directors, Secretary, Treasurer and Professional Director will continue to meet each April to plan for the next season. This is the work period, over the summer; as we *plan* educational needs, review programs, personnel and general divisional business, prior to the annual Board meeting in August.

Third, it was approved by the Board to eliminate the *Student Seminar*. This was an extremely hard decision. We must not forget however, that the strength in the future of our association will come from youth. If we fail to develop our student members, we ultimately will fail, as there will be no one groomed to take over. Students are the lifeblood and we must do our utmost to attract these members into our system. Utilize their talents. They may be young, but they are also very skilled and intelligent. So except my personal challenge to seek out student members!

Fourth, we placed emphasis on our *Instructor Development* program and are seeking to grow this key educational staff function. We are educated people, that have been taught by instructors all of our lives. Within our organization, we must train and develop our instructional staff. These are the ultimate people who go on to teach specific patrolling sessions like OEC, transportation and avalanche, to mention a few. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, this is how you start. We are here to help you get started in the right direction, with necessary tools to support your dedication, interest and knowledge.

Fifth, we placed a great deal of importance on our *Senior Patroller* program. This is the one program that challenges a patroller to be a better patroller, through educations, skill and experiences. It is a program to show that you are interested in improving your performance. You will see the results grow in the next few years as your division staff continues to refine and improve the program and your ultimate experience of growth.

We had a very active and productive year in the division. Again, our efforts are designed to be transparent to membership. However, we want you to be fully aware of what we are doing.

During the Executive Committee meeting, we made several decisions on staff realignment. The final plans will be presented to the Board for ratification in August. We also are preparing recommendations to the Board on several financial matters pertaining to educational course expenses. We feel this is a very important issue as it affects instructors and members. Do not fret, no increases are being presented, quite the opposite!

Some of you may or may not have heard about some controversy regarding the removal of National Ski Patrol from backcrosses. As it stands today, the verbiage will be removed and only plain white backcrosses will be available, in the future. I can only inform you that I honestly believe this is the right decision. If you recall from my last article, we are all members of our association – The National Ski Patrol. This does not, nor should it mean that NSP is walking away from membership, quite the contrary! The most important two items we all need to stay focused on is simply this: we are registered members of our individual resorts; we are registered members of our NSP association. Each and every day we patrol, we patrol for our resorts and are directed by their policies and procedures, as it should be. The majority of members spend their entire time working at their resort, which should be our primary purpose. Others partake in region and division functions, teaching membership new skills or educational enhancements. While doing these functions, they are working for NSP in an educational delivery capacity. So, what is the big deal with the cross then? If we consider OEC, the largest program we do, approximately 20% of the division membership participates in annual refresher cycles as instructors, representing NSP. It drops significantly for everyday OEC activities. With this in mind, 80% of membership works for resorts only. This is not an exact example, but a good one to think about. Rather than me belaboring this anymore, if you have any further questions or concerns about this direction, please contact me directly. I will tell you there are some websites out there, in strong opposition to the change. I do not encourage you to go to them, just the opposite. They are not totally factual and driven to a great degree by emotions. Again, if you have concerns, ***please contact me directly.***

The other controversy floating around is the changing of classifications. This is a project currently under review by all Division Directors, in a task committee, appointed by our National Chair, **Bill Sachs**. As of this writing, there is no proposal going forward to the national board, so anything you might hear regarding National changing classifications is not factual. National will be providing bronze (Patroller), silver (Senior) and gold (Certified) pins in the future, but this does not mean, nor should it be construed, that a change in classifications has occurred. The only thing I can assure you of is Division Directors are looking into classifications. Within this process, we are looking at the Senior classification and the requirements. This will be a topic of discussion at the division's meeting in August and again in the Division Directors next meeting.

Let me now close by saying, “have a great summer”! Thank you for everything you do for the resorts we represent, for those that instruct for the patrol, region or division. Most of all, thank you for your wonderful dedication and the excellent care you provide to our guests and resorts. Without them, we would not be able to provide this humanitarian service. You all do so much to make this passionate endeavor possible!

***So here is a hearty thank you to all members within Southern!
Keep up the excellent work! You are the best!***

From the Assistants...

R. Morgan Armstrong,
1st ADD, Southern Division

POWDERFALL - Having just returned from *Powderfall 2005* and seeing the advertisements for Powderfall 2006, I thought this was a good time to invite all patrollers to consider this 2006 event. Powderfall is a fun experience with a lot to do and no pressure to do anything you do not want to do. The staff sets up PSIA Demo Team lessons each morning and they are worth the trip without anything else being provided. These instructors can make skiing fun and at the same time you learn techniques that really help in the hard places. The afternoon classes are interesting and there is a wide variety. If you signed up for a *Crud Skiing Clinic* or *Mogul Clinic* and you do not feel up to it - no problem. The staff will switch you to another class or you can bail out of your class and no one says a thing about it. If you want to switch to another class with a friend at the last minute, so long as there is room - no problem. The staff or instructor will switch you without a comment. The cross-section of patrollers from all over the country and all skill levels make the entire event an adventure from the hot tub to the slopes. If you have never gone or if you have not gone in a while, then you should consider signing up for the trip. It will be a fun adventure you will be glad you enjoyed.

TERRAIN PARKS - One of the sections of the Powderfall curriculum was a three-part program on terrain parks. The first section dealt with park design, maintenance and documentation. *Documentation* was how one is able to map out the features and measure precisely where they are in the park, their height, angles, slopes and all measurements sufficient to recreate the feature at a future time. Photographs were important but the detailed engineering maps were more important. The second part was *accident investigation* and how that is so different from the normal slope investigation. The final or third section dealt with channeling the energy of the riders toward positive initiatives or how to get them on the side of the resort and the patrol for a better experience for all and how to avoid rebellion in the park. Simple ideas such as have the park isolated so entrance and exit is only at one point. Out west they achieve this by putting the park in a location one can only reach from the top due to the terrain. In the east we will need to fence the park so there is no cross traffic. The *design* is important to keep beginners, intermediates and experts apart. This is achieved by having separate parks for each class of rider or where space is a problem have the left side for beginners, the middle for intermediates and the right for experts. Each lane is in - turn segregated by space or barriers. It is a whole new area of patrolling with a whole new vocabulary or language. A new program for signs, brochures, information and videos for the resort (all of it free) can be found at www.freestyleterrain.com, which is hosted, by the NSP, PSIA, NSAA, Burton Boards and several other organizations. Look it up and pass it on to your mountain manager as a good resource for safety.

SOUTHERN DIVISION WEB PAGE - The division is in the process of changing the Website for the division into a more useful and informative publication. We hope to transition to an interactive page with instant updates as people and items change. We have a transition team starting to work on this new effort that combines **Steve Cortelyou** and his experience with some new talent fresh from college. **Jordan Mitchell** of the *Wolf Laurel Patrol* will be starting the transition into new dimensions with the web page and **Michael Erb** of the *Wolf Laurel Patrol* will be joining him as soon as exams are finished. We hope to add more talent as we progress with this program and the division invites anyone who would like to help us with this project to get in touch with Steve or Jordan or myself. A lot of what we are able to do is from the savings realized by the division from all the patrollers who are taking the Southern Cross by email. The cost savings are giving us funds to expand other programs. Keep up the good work and tell anyone you know who is still getting a

mailed copy of the **Southern Cross** to consider signing up for the web issue. It is fast, colorful and easy to download for those who are willing to take the edition by email but want a written or hard copy. It is so easy to print from the email version so you get both versions at home. You get the best of both worlds by this process and the division saves money to postpone dues increases and use the savings for a better program for you.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT - Each patroller is alerted to check the **Web Page** and **Southern Cross** for changes in the division. The Board of Directors and Officers of the division are trying to make things easier, less in complexity and more easily understood for the patroller. Look for the changes and notices of changes in the next few months so we all can stay current. Let us know if you agree or disagree that the system is being simplified.

Learning All Over Again -

Richard Boyer

Assistant Division Director - Southern Area

We have some minor changes proposed in the way the southern half of our Division of the National Ski Patrol is set up. Instead of three regions, we will have two—the Blue Ridge and Dixie Regions. With the closure of the Scaly Mountain Ski Area several years ago and the uncertainty of Sky Valley's situation, the Deep South and Smoky Mountain regions will be combined and renamed the **Dixie Region**, as it was three years ago. With this change, we also have a new Region Director in the new Dixie Region, and his name is **Brent Bowman**. Many of you may know Brent as he has been very active in the Ski & Toboggan side of our patrol business.

Welcome Brent, we look forward to working with you.

Ober-Gatlinburg, Cataloochee and **Wolf Laurel** had strong years last year. Ober will have to fill big shoes with **Brandon Olsen's** resignation as Patrol Director (pro) and his move to the volunteer side as Assistant Region Director and Transportation Supervisor of the Dixie Region.

Cataloochee continues to develop its 10-year plan with expansion of both snow-making and ski runs.

Wolf Laurel enjoyed the opening of an awesome new Lodge in February 2005.



(Photos submitted by Richard Boyer)

Orville English

(owner/manager) of Wolf Laurel and **Richard Boyer** inspecting the fireplace in the new Lodge at the building dedication.



I look forward to working with **Mike Harris**, the Region Director of the smooth running Blue Ridge Region. Mike and I have known each other for several years as we served you on the Executive Committee of our division. I also look forward to meeting the folks who work at *Sugar Mountain*, *Ski Beech*, *Appalachian Ski Mountain* and *Ski Hawksnest* during the coming year.

We will continue to work on our awards program this next year. It continues to grow in strength and I'd like to see at least 3 award applications for each ski area this next year. This cannot happen if everyone waits until the end of the year to begin the process. Please identify your awards coordinator, remind everyone to update their information on the NSP website (to make the information process for awards much quicker and easier) and start early to develop the applications.

Notes From The North...

Jan Starr

Assistant Division Director – North Area

Ah Spring! It's great to be sitting outside on the porch again. I know it was a difficult winter for everyone. It started out slow but sure finished with some great snows.

My thanks to all that participated in the many training programs. There was a great turnout for the *Avalanche* program and the *MTR* programs that were held. Training in other programs went well also. We have a lot of new *Senior* patrollers out there now. Congratulations to all of them for their hard work and dedication to this program. I also had the great pleasure to travel to the **Homestead** in early December and participate in the *PES* program held there. What wonderful hospitality and a great job done by the instructors, **Mary and Cindy**. I highly recommend this program for a senior elective or for anyone wanting more insight in to our patrolling system. There will be one hosted by them again this coming December.



My only disappointment was in the **Women's Toboggan Clinic**. We just couldn't get it together. We did not have enough signed up to participate to pay for the visiting instructor from Eastern Division. We will try again for this next season. The date will be **February 11-12 2006**. There will be a very reasonable package put together by the Fall Officers Meeting in August. We have had great fun with this in the past, and everyone went away with new knowledge in skiing and toboggan skills. There will be a deadline to sign up for this so please plan ahead.

Each program has a deadline to plan for the amount of folks participating. This helps to get instructor ratios and books. Please respect these programs and instructors in this aspect.

The saddest thing for me this past season was losing a good friend, fellow patroller, and right hand man for WV Region in the passing of **Jon Dragan** in February. I will miss his wit and enlightening input to the patrol system, as will his home patrol of **Winterplace** and all of the **River** folks, with whom he was so active with. Jon did a lot for many. I thank his wife **Melanie** for letting me take a little of him to Belize (somewhere he wanted to go but never got the chance). He is now a part of the *Hol Chan Marine Reserve* on the reef off of Ambergris Caye. I will have the chance to visit with him often in one of my favorite dive/snorkel areas.

I do look forward to working with one of his best friends, **Byrd White**, who will be filling the position of WV Region Director in his place.

Enjoy your summer; make time for family and friends.

Remember that there are probably summer events at your area that need your support.

From the Regions...

Virginia Region

Bill Smith

Virginia Region Director

It's May and I'm not sure about you, but I'm definitely getting spring fever. However, if the weather would just cooperate, I would be getting the itch to be outside and stay outside!!! Spring here in Virginia is such a pretty time, but generally signals the end of the usual ski season as we know it in the south. That however doesn't mean that ski patrol work is over for the year, it just takes on a new face. There are meetings and training sessions to attend, awards to bestow for hard work, planning to be done and many other tasks that signals the end of one season and the beginning of the next. Lately those tasks and seasons all seem to blend together.



Other than the early “spring break” we experienced in January, the Virginia areas had a great season. Much was accomplished. All of the hard work and training paid off.

The '04-'05 **Virginia Senior** program got off to a flying start with an influx of new candidates. In all, there were nine personnel involved this season. Of those, two successfully completed all Senior requirements and achieved their Senior status. They included **Peggy McFarland** from *Wintergreen* and yours truly from *Homestead* and *Wintergreen*. Congratulations to all for their accomplishments and especially Peggy for completing the program!!!

Effective immediately, we will be making a couple of administrative changes here in the Commonwealth. First of all, **Dave Quidort** will be devoting his full-time efforts to the Division Senior program rather than trying to coordinate both the Division and Virginia Region programs. **Dave**, thanks for jump starting the Division program and taking Virginia's program to new heights and good luck with the Division program as you continue your work there. We know you will do a great job!!! Back here at home, “**T**” **Harris** has agreed to take on the task of Virginia Region Senior Coordinator. With “**T**’s” help we will have an even stronger program. **Peg Harris** has agreed to step up to the plate and take on the task of Assistant Region Director. Thank you Peg!!!

To continue on with the Senior program, there will be a Division-wide **Senior Evaluator Clinic** (both Emergency Management and S&T) held in Wytheville, VA on Saturday November 5, 2005. All division Senior Evaluators will need to attend this one-day training session. The purpose of the clinic will be to get all Senior Evaluator's on the same sheet of music. **Dave Quidort** will lead the clinic and will provide more information as we move closer to that date. So please be thinking about this session now and mark your calendar!!!

During the past year, there were a number of great education programs presented in Virginia and the other regions. Many folks attended the programs and hopefully got some great new ideas and information related to the ski and outdoor industries. Thanks to everyone (students and instructors alike) for your support for these programs.

“You asked for it and you got it.” Speaking of education programs, this year there was no SOM held in the Division. As you are aware, that is the platform typically utilized to pull together the Region, Division, and other planning calendars we all use to plan our NSP activities. With no meeting being held this year, here in Virginia, we took advantage of the opportunity by sending an

email to all Virginia patroller's asking them for input and what they would like to see in the way of training programs this coming year. A number of folks took advantage of this opportunity and sent in ideas. It looks like we will be able to provide most of what was requested. (See Calendar's) Even if you don't see what you would like at one of the Virginia areas (and I think you will), it may be offered at a close by area so check out the calendars closely.

Last but not least, let's not forget the **Fall Officer's Meeting** that will be held in Wytheville on August 20th and 21st. There is a slightly different format this year. The meeting will begin on Saturday and continue for a half-day on Sunday. That session will be followed by the new PR/Officer training program on Sunday afternoon. There will be much to accomplish and a great deal of fun to be had by all!!! On Saturday evening the Awards Banquet will be held and hopefully there will be a lot of awards given out for all the hard work that was done this year by so many of you. Come one, come all!!! Don't forget these sessions are open to everyone.

In closing, treat yourself to an extra dish of ice cream for the great job you did this past season and start getting ready for the new season soon by thinking about how you can be a better and safer patroller. Guess that's about it for now. However, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can help in some small way. Hope to see you soon!!!

Blue Ridge Region

Mike Harris

Blue Ridge Region Director



Even with the higher elevation in Blue Ridge, we were not exempt from a challenging season. With snow making weather arriving a couple weeks later than normal and the January thaw starting the week of Christmas and not ending until just before MLK, all four of our ski areas did a great job with the cards Mother Nature dealt. It was nice to see the patroller turnout in less than stellar conditions. Our program supervisors only had to move a couple of clinics and exams, and with the cooperation that occurred, you would have thought it was one patrol instead of one region.

On that note, I would like to encourage all of our patrollers to check out the calendar in this *Southern Cross* and take advantage of any of the courses, clinics, or exams offered. Many of your fellow patrollers put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to help other patrollers in our region. **Mary Underwood** will be holding a **Patroller Enrichment Seminar** (PES) for our entire region on Saturday, June 25th at **Sugar Mountain**.

Dixie Region

Brent Bowman
Dixie Region Director

Greetings from the NEW re-united DIXIE REGION!!!



Many of you may wonder who I am and where I came from. Well....I started on Ski Patrol at **Snow Trails** in Ohio (Central Division). I had wanted to join NSP for years and finally got around to it. It all began when my family and I were in Quebec skiing when I was 12. My brother and I had just done the big 6-mile run and he was really proud. He skied up to our mother and said "I have good news and bad." Of course, Mom wanted the bad but first; however, **Bryce** had to tell her that he had done the entire 6-mile run and then, pointing up the hill said, "That person in the middle of the last part of the run is **Brent** and it looks like he broke his leg!!" To make a long story short,

the local Ski Patrol loaded me onto a Toboggan then into a van with Mom and took us to the nearest hospital where I got a cast on the leg. The worst part was this was 1.5 days into a 7-day vacation. The best is that I learned about the great work that the Ski Patrol does in assisting the public. I have now been on patrol since 1992 and a Senior since 1997. I was an S&T examiner and trainer in Central Division, assistant Patrol Rep & assistant Ohio Region Toboggan supervisor. I also completed my PSIA Level 1 before moving south. I have been active in the South in Basic & Senior Testing and Training since I moved here 3 years ago. I was Assistant Regional Director under **Sylvia Talley** and her hope was that I would take over the Deep South from her. Little did she know the changes that **Neil** had in store for us! I have asked **Brandon Olson** of *Ober Gatlinburg* to be my assistant and also Region Transportation Supervisor (formally S&T supervisor). In my non-NSP life I am the Operations Manager for a small company that does control systems for corrugated board plants and a member of the Board of Directors at the Cliff Club at Snowbird, Utah. My wife (Wendy) and I live in Atlanta, GA.

This season we, as a region, will be focusing on **Enhancement Seminars, Mountain Travel and Rescue (MTR)** and various other elective courses. For those of you who have not been on a **MTR** weekend, I highly recommend it. Also, if you feel the urge to learn how to turn these new (even if you have had them for a couple of years) shaped skis, the **Skiing Enhancement Seminar** is for YOU!! Are you a **Toboggan Monkey**?? Do you think you know the latest in toboggan handling? Well, you just might learn something new at the **Toboggan Enhancement Seminar!** Do you know what a **PIEPS** is?? No, it is not the little yellow chick that my wife leaves on the counter to dry out and harden around Easter time! It is an Avalanche Transceiver and is not rocket science to use. The **Avalanche Seminar** is a GREAT place to learn how to use this tool as well as many interesting facts about slides and where and why they may happen.

SEE YOU IN THE CLASSROOM.....Brent



Dixie Region – OEC Program

Sylvia Talley

Dixie Region OEC Administrator



Reaching Out

It all started, some years ago, with something that I read in *Pointers*, a NSP publication for instructors. An OEC instructor in Alaska had taken his students in canoes into headwaters for effective and realistic OEC training. Here in Atlanta, we have forty-eight miles of Chattahoochee River flowing through our area that is owned and managed by National Park Service as River Recreation Area. ***An idea was born!*** Some years ago we took OEC students to this hilly, wooded land along the river to practice backboarding and splinting.

Last year I approached NPS to offer CPR and OEC training. It was just a matter of finding the right decision maker, who turned out to be the Chief Ranger. **Scott Pfeninger** is an Alumnus member of National Ski Patrol. During a meeting **Larry Bost** and I had with Scott last Spring, we were offered – again – the National River Recreation areas for OEC course work and our Atlanta Refresher. In turn, we have included Park Service personnel in our CPR classes. With Larry Bost serving as OEC National Program Director, we hope to enlarge this relationship on a national level between NSP and NPS.

In early November we held our OEC refresher outdoors at Park Service Headquarters at Island Ford. Once again, we had the opportunity to practice our OEC skills in an optimum outdoor setting. Patrollers who attended heartily voiced their approval of this setting. Our next goal is to offer NPS personnel in Atlanta OEC training.

One of our patrols, **Sky Valley**, has reached out to neighboring ski areas to help out the thirty-five patrollers and candidates who are without a home this season. In December, **Celeste Bernstein**, Sky PR, was notified that the area had been sold and would not open for the 2004-05 season. Under the strong leadership of this patrol, our Basic candidates, Senior candidates and Senior Emergency candidates are training long and hard to reach their goals. We thank **Sapphire, Cloudmont, Cataloochee** and **Gatlinburg** for hosting our “*Southern Ski Tour*”. In the meantime, we are hopeful that Sky patrollers can return to their north Georgia mountain next season.

Grow your Skills through the Senior Program

Dave Quidort
Division Senior Coordinator



As Patroller's we should always be looking to challenge ourselves to grow our skills. The **Senior** program is just that program for patrollers to gain further knowledge in areas which we may not encounter, such as **Mountain Travel and Rescue, Avalanche, and Instructor Development**, though our day to day involvement as patrollers.

The *Senior Program* is meant to be one that is both educational and at the same time provide a challenge to the patroller. The commitment to earn Senior is one that takes time, experience and training. It is through our experience

and training that as patrollers we gain the most from earning Senior and at the same time give back to our local patrol as having taken the time to meet a challenge that is beyond just our local patrol.

The Senior program is really three parts, **Continuing Education** (Core Electives), **Skiing and Toboggan handling**, and **Emergency Medical Management** (EMM) skills. Each one of these areas requires us to commit time, training and use our experiences as patrollers to earn Senior. Work has been started and will continue to get more information out to the Patrol Directors and Patrol Representatives on how they can support their patrollers who choose to go for Senior. Additional information for Candidates is being created and assembled into a package that can be used as a road map for earning Senior.

Looking to the future of the Senior program, there will be changes to help utilize the enormous amount of skill and talent that the Southern Division has within it's own ranks. We will be working with the region coordinators to put in place processes that can be used across the entire division. The intent is put in place more common practices and also be able to report on the results of the program.



Training is not limited to just patrollers who chose to work on Senior. This year the division will be hosting a **Senior EMM Evaluator's Clinic** for all active Senior EMM Evaluators. The date has not been set as of yet, but will be in early November of 2005. Information on this clinic will be coming forth through the region Senior Coordinators in a few weeks.

Lastly, as we move forward with the Senior program, we all must shift away from past issues and work on making the Senior program stronger, through pulling our resources together and our best practices from each of the regions to a division level. As we do this and apply these practices across the division we will build a stronger Senior program. We can only achieve this support through out the entire division. (Photos submitted by Dave Quidort)

Division Senior Program

*Judi Kay-Monaghan,
OEC Program Supervisor*



Refresher season is soon upon us, and this year there will be a new OEC magazine dedicated to OEC and the annual refresher. Look for it late summer and save it to use for this year's refresher study guide. Dig out your CPR card and see when it expires and schedule an update appropriately. Don't wait till the last minute. We will again host a meeting for all Instructors of Record for each patrol refresher this year mid August.

A warm welcome goes out to our new *OEC Regional Administrators (RA)* **Jane Poundstone** - West Virginia, **Hugh Jernigan** - Blue Ridge, **Sylvia Talley** - Dixie Region and **John Shaffer** - Virginia. Many thanks go out to retiring **Joe McNeer**, **Lisa Adams**, **Larry Erb** and

Ken Collins for a job well done as great Regional Administrators.

We are gearing up for the **2006 Senior Program**. It is not too early to start thinking about your participation in this great program. Check out the dates in the Southern Cross and work them into your patrolling schedule. I thought a reminder of the roles and responsibilities for the Senior Program would be helpful at this time. To mention a few of the advantages realized by each patrol from the Senior Program is that it provides, seasoned patrollers with leadership potential acting as role models, advanced management skills, a mentor resource and evaluation judge candidates. A positive program and experience for both the patroller and mountain management.

The **Patrol Representative's** responsibility for the senior program begins with identifying qualified candidates and encouraging them to participate in the program.

1. Verify that the Patroller has the OEC skills necessary to enter into the Senior Program.
2. Sign the application form for your Senior Candidate thus verifying that they have your approval to enter into the Senior Program.
3. You or your Senior Training Officer must work with them on completing OEC scenarios at your local area. If they do not possess the necessary skills, work with them until they do; however; they should not be sent to any clinics until they are qualified to attend.
4. Provide them with the registration deadlines to officially enter into the Senior Program, dates of local patrol OEC training, regional elective course dates, local and Regional S&T training dates for Clinics and Examinations.
5. You are ultimately responsible for making sure that each Senior Candidate has arranged for one (1) Clinic and one (1) Examination victim plus one (1) OEC Examiner for each Clinic and Examination, to support the Region and Senior Program.
6. Get the correct spelling of **exactly** how the new senior wants their name to appear on the Senior Certificate.
7. Make a copy of the original form for the individual and your Patrol Personnel file. The original Senior Accomplishment form will be returned to you, by the Region Senior Coordinator, once he confirms completion of all elements.
8. Submit the change of status form to National Headquarters notifying them that said member has completed the senior requirements. National will then issue a new membership card with the classification change.
9. Strongly encourage the new Senior(s) to attend the Fall Awards Banquet for the personal awarding of their accomplishment, from the Division Director.

The role of the **Senior Candidate** is equally important to the success of the program. The interested candidate should first advise the Patrol Representative of their interest in the Senior Program.

1. Purchase a Senior Manual from NSP.
2. Obtain application form from respective Patrol Rep or get it off the NSP website. Mail, fax or e-mail a copy of the application form to the Region Senior Coordinator or if you have further questions contact the Division Senior Program Coordinator, **Dave Quidort**, 209 Jerryanne Court, Apex, NC 27523 Phone (H) 919-363-7935 (O) 919-382-2303 E-mail (O) QuidortD@us.IBM.com
3. Get together with your respective Patrol Senior Training Officer or Patrol Representative to begin the local patrol level OEC skills verification work. Your Patrol Representative will need to verify that you meet the OEC skills requirements.
4. Develop your first aid scenario. Senior Emergency Management Candidates must complete written answers to two (2) open-ended practice scenarios and write one senior level emergency management training scenario at a difficulty level of 5 or 6. The written scenario exercises are to be done at the patrol level, under the direction of a current OEC instructor and be included with the pre-registration material due. The scenario's must be typed.
5. Attend the mandatory Senior Emergency Management Clinic in the Region.
6. Attend the Senior Emergency Management Examination in the Region.
7. Attend the mandatory Senior Ski and Toboggan Clinic in the Region (does not apply for Senior Auxiliary).
8. Attend the Senior Ski and Toboggan Examination in the Region (does not apply for Senior Auxiliary).
9. Attend three course electives (i.e.: Leadership Development, Patroller Enrichment Seminar, Avalanche Awareness, Mountain Travel and Rescue, etc.)
10. You may be asked to help make arrangements with your respective Patrol Representative to ensure that you have victims and examiners for your clinics and examinations.
11. Each Senior Candidate is totally responsible for maintaining their individual Senior Accomplishment Form, with signatures of Instructor of Record, dates completed, etc. There is no replacement of this form. This is a very critical document, so protect it.
12. A senior candidate application and a copy of the activity record will again be required from each Senior Candidate, even if they have been in the senior program in past seasons. This pre-registration is mandatory.
13. Walk-ins for the clinics or evaluation without the pre-registration documentation will not be allowed.
14. Each Senior Candidate is required to attend the clinic prior to attending the evaluation.

Patrol Directors and Representatives must ensure that their candidates have been reviewed in their OEC and Basic Life Support/CPR skills. Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) skills are critical; however the Senior Emergency Management clinic and evaluation are focused on the proficiency needed to successfully complete the senior decision-making, management and leadership component. For S&T, the candidate must demonstrate ski and toboggan proficiency at a senior level. If a candidate has taken the Senior Emergency Management or S&T evaluations in the past and has not been successful, we strongly recommend that Patrol Director or Representative designate a mentor so that the candidate moves forward.

***Good Luck to all the Senior Program candidates this year,
I guarantee it will be a rewarding experience, one where you developed new and
lasting patroller relationships.***



Patroller Enrichment Seminar (PES)

Mary Underwood

Patroller Enrichment Supervisor

Are You Willing to Step Out of "The Box"?

"The Box" that I'm talking about is your patrol. Most of us have formed deep NSP commitments to: 1) our respective patrols, 2) the strong friendships that we have formed there, and 3) the satisfaction of working together in a job that does make a difference. Would you be willing to step out of that comfortable place to meet and work with patrollers from other mountains?

Teresa Stewart, a Hawksnest patroller and a Patroller Enrichment Seminar participant in 2003, said that she surprisingly found almost instant camaraderie with patrollers from other mountains during our discussions and activities in PES. She liked the fact that PES is not a check-off of particular skills but gives patrollers a chance to share experiences and learn from each other. The patrollers at the PES in 2004 were challenged by **Jan Starr**, our ADD for the Northern Area, to create designs for a new first aid room to be built at **Silver Creek** ski area. The emphasis and purpose of each PES does accommodate different interests and needs of patrollers. It is an elective course for senior.



Are you willing to step out of "The Box"? The next PES will be on Saturday, June 25 at **Sugar Mtn.** Resort from 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Another course will be offered in the **Northern Area** on Dec. 10, 2005. You must pre-register for these courses. Contact Mary Underwood to sign up and for further information. Telephone 865-483-3675, email: jnu@bellsouth.net.

In Memory
Jon A. Dragan
1942-2005

On February 12, 2005 we lost one of our best – **Jon Dragon** passed away after suffering a stroke. His wife Melanie and two children, Josh and Melissa, survive him.

Jon joined the *Winterplace Patrol* in 1992 and was immediately named to the “Casual Patrol” by his lead instructor. While Jon was anything but casual, he took great pains to undersell himself, and no matter what he had accomplished, he treated everyone as an equal. Upon becoming a patroller he chose our resort radio call number “98” with the remark that “the important people should have the low numbers”.



Almost immediately after joining the patrol, he became a WEC/OEC instructor and began giving back. At the time of his death he was an OEC IT and the West Virginia Region Director. Jon’s leadership and dedication led to him receiving Leadership Commendation Appointment # 8291 in 2002. The director of the Winterplace Aid Room remarked after his death that there was nothing in the aid room that Jon had not either donated or repaired.

Jon’s service to the Ski Patrol began after he had done more than most of us can dream. Generally accepted as the “*Father of West Virginia Whitewater*”, Jon and his brothers Tom and Chris were the first to commercially run whitewater river trips on the New River. Jon was recognized as one of the best whitewater people in the world and made numerous first descents on rivers from New Zealand to Costa Rica. Jon also served as safety coordinator for the first decent of the Shuiluo-He River in Tibet China for National Geographic. After his death, the West Virginia Legislature name the road from Glen Jean to Thurmond in his honor and declared that Bridge Day held in October, commemorating the completion of the longest single arch bridge in the northern hemisphere, would also be held in his honor this year.

Although Jon traveled the world and received awards and accolades from the governments of West Virginia, the United States, and various foreign countries, to all of us he was just Jon. We miss you 98!

West Virginia Legislation

Delegates Pino, Louisos and Perry offered the following resolution, which was read by its title and referred to the Committee on Rules:

H. C. R. 88 - "Requesting the West Virginia Division of Highways to name State Route 25 from Glen Jean to Thurmond in Fayette County the "Jon Dragan Road."

Whereas, **Jon Dragan** was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania on September 11, 1942, but was drawn to Fayette County, West Virginia as a young man by the lure of whitewater rapids on the New River; and

Whereas, In 1968 **Jon Dragan**, along with his brothers Tom and Chris and his future wife, Melanie, began operating the State's first commercial rafting company, Wildwater Expeditions Unlimited, on the New River; and

Whereas, **Jon Dragan's** pioneering efforts on the New River that summer of 1968 led to the development of a whitewater rafting industry that today is a driving force in the State's tourism economy; and

Whereas, **Jon Dragan's** contributions to Fayette County and the State of West Virginia extend far beyond whitewater rafting, for Jon played an important role in the creation and development of the New River Gorge National River, Bridge Day and numerous other endeavors such as the West Virginia Southern Railway; and

Whereas, **Jon Dragan's** spirit of adventure in his professional life extended to his personal life as well, where Jon participated in whitewater expeditions in remote locations such as Tibet and China, explored exotic locations such as the Galapagos Islands and Antarctica, and skied in remote areas around the world; and

Whereas, **Jon Dragan's** personality, humor, vision and entrepreneurial spirit were examples for all and inspiration to many; and

Whereas, **Jon Dragan** was truly a man of legendary proportion, and his sudden and unexpected passing has left a void in many lives and in the State dynamic; and

Whereas, **Jon Dragan** was called from this Earth on February 12, 2005, passing away after a short illness; and

Whereas, **Jon Dragan's** pioneering spirit and his prodigious work ethic enabled him to accomplish much in his relatively short lifetime, and he leaves behind a legacy that will endure to the great benefit of Fayette County and the State of West Virginia for generations to come; and

Whereas, It is only fitting that we pay homage to "The Father of Whitewater Rafting in West Virginia" by naming in his honor the access road State Route 25 from Glen Jean to Thurmond finding the New River Gorge where so many thousands of whitewater rafters travel each year to reach the New River; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the West Virginia Division of Highways is hereby requested to name State Route 25 from Glen Jean to Thurmond in Fayette County the "Jon Dragan Road"; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Clerk of the House is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Highways, to Melanie Dragan, to Jon and Melanie's daughter, Melissa, and to their son, Josh.

http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bulletin Board/House/H_DAILY_JOURNAL/hdj2005-04-06-57.htm



**2005 NSP Southern Division
Annual Meeting
August 20th and 21st
Holiday Inn Conference Center,
Wytheville, Virginia
Exit 73 off I-81 near I-77**



NEW MEETING FORMAT!

Friday and Saturday Evening Hospitality Room Social

Saturday

Board of Directors and Annual Division Meeting
*****Special Guest, Stephen Over, NSP Executive Director*****
OEC Instructor Update
Luncheon Buffet
Annual Awards Banquet, Saturday Evening

Sunday Morning

*****Board Meeting continues Sunday morning with
2005-2006 Ski Season Final Planning
***Special Guest, Mark Petrozzi
Insurance, Risk Management, and Litigation
in the Ski Industry***
New Patrol Representative & Officer Seminar**

Plan to attend --- mark your calendars NOW!

Registration forms will arrive in your mailboxes SOON!



2005 NSP Southern Division Instructor Update Saturday - August 20th



*In conjunction with the Southern Division
Fall Officer's Meeting
Holiday Inn Conference Center
Wytheville, Virginia*

The site of this year's Instructor Update is scheduled at the Holiday Inn, Wytheville, Virginia on Saturday, August 20th beginning at 8:30 am.

Additional weekend events are:

6:00 pm - UNTIL, August 20: Awards Banquet in evening
8:30 am - Noon, August 21: 2005-2006 Planning Meeting
Noon - 2:30 pm, August 21: New Patrol Rep/Division Officers Workshop

The comments regarding the format of the instructor update were so favorable from last year; the plan is to follow the same type of course structure. **Each OEC instructor must attend an update once every three years and Instructor Trainers should attend each year.** If you are unsure if you should attend please contact your OEC Regional Administrator for detailed information. Every OEC Instructor is **required** to update once every three years. If you are unsure of when the re-certification is due, contact your Regional OEC Administrator. I would like to welcome our new OEC Administrators in the West Virginia Region / **Jane Poundstone**, Blue Ridge Region / **Hugh Jernigan**, Dixie Region / **Sylvia Talley** and **John Shaffer** will lead the Virginia Region.

In order to obtain update credit, each instructor must attend three (3) sessions. For those patrollers who are required to attend the Officers Meeting, two sessions will be during the general meeting and a special "*Lunch and Learn*" session will be held during the lunch break to allow you to meet your three (3) session requirement.

Registration forms will be sent at a later date.

Southern Division Calendar

Month	Date	Event	Location	Contact	Comments
SEE REGIONAL CALENDARS FOR Educational Courses for 2005-2006					
Southern Cross Deadlines					
2005					
Sep	12	Fall Southern Cross Deadline		Southern Cross Editor	Teresa T. Stewart - sceditor@bellsouth.net
2006					
Jan	20	Midwinter Southern Cross Deadline		Southern Cross Editor	Teresa T. Stewart - sceditor@bellsouth.net
May	15	Spring Southern Cross Deadline		Southern Cross Editor	Teresa T. Stewart - sceditor@bellsouth.net
Division Meeting Events					
2005					
Aug	6	Summer Executive Committee		Neil Booth Via Email Address	Electronic Or Phone Conference Meeting
Aug	19	Executive Committee Meeting	Wytheville, VA	Holiday Inn 276-228-4583	Meeting Begins At 7:30pm
Aug	20	OEC Instructors Update Meeting	Wytheville, VA	Holiday Inn 276-228-4583	Meeting Begins At 8:30am
Aug	20	Fall Board Of Directors Meeting	Wytheville, VA	Holiday Inn 276-228-4583	Meeting Begins At 8:30am
Aug	21	05-06 Plans Meeting	Wytheville, VA	Holiday Inn 276-228-4583	Meeting Begins At 8:30am
Aug	21	New Patrol Rep/Div Officer Course	Wytheville, VA	Holiday Inn 276-228-4583	For All New Line Personnel & Patrol Reps
2006					
Jan	21	Mid Winter EC Meeting	TBD	TBD	EC Will Only Meet If DD Calls Meeting
May	6	Spring EC Planning Meeting	Wytheville	Holiday Inn 276-228-4583	Meeting Begins At 8am
Jul	22	Summer EC Planning Meeting	Wytheville	Holiday Inn 276-228-4583	Meeting Begins At Noon
Aug	18	EC Meeting @ FOM	Wytheville	Holiday Inn 276-228-4583	Meeting Begins At 7pm
Aug	19-20	Fall BOD Meeting	Wytheville	Holiday Inn 276-228-4583	Meeting Begins At 8:30am
Division Reporting Deadlines					
2006					
BUDGET SUBMISSIONS					
Apr	15	Next Seasons Budgets Requests	Annually	Jim Underwood 865-483-3675	jnu@bellsouth.net
Jul	1	Final Year End Budget Submissions	Annually	Jim Underwood 865-483-3675	jnu@bellsouth.net
Jul	1	Patrol Financial Reports (990's)	Annually	Jim Underwood 865-483-3675	jnu@bellsouth.net
AWARDS SUBMISSIONS					
Apr	1	Awards Nominations	Annually	Send To Chain Of Command On Application, Signed In Order. Email to JDobson4@aol.com	
ANYTIME		Nat'l Or Leadership Award Nominations		Send To Chain Of Command Listed On Application - Signed In Proper Order.	
END OF YEAR REPORT SUBMISSIONS					
Apr	1	Patrol Reps End Of Year Report	Annually	Morgan Armstrong, DD, ADD, RD	RMASP@Adelphia.net
Apr	1	Officers End Of Year Report	Annually	Respective Supervisor	
Apr	1	Supervisors End Of Year Report	Annually	Respective Supervisor, DD	

Blue Ridge Region Calendar

OEC Courses and Challenges held in Region for 2005-2006						
May	24	OEC Course	Clemmons, NC	Don Stewart 336-969-6362	donstewart1951@alltel.net	
Aug	2	OEC Course	Boone, NC	Cathy LaMarre 828-263-5207	Cathy.lamarre@ircct.com	
Oct	22, 23	OEC Challenge	Sugar Mtn	Larry Fleming 828-437-8448	lmfeveski@bellsouth.net	8:30 am
OEC Events held in Region for 2005-2006						
Sep	10	OEC Instructor (Pre) Refresher	Appalachian	Hugh Jernigan 336-727-1995	Hugh.Jernigan@ncmail.net	8:30 am
Oct	1	OEC Refresher - Grandfather	Valle Crusis	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	
Nov	5	OEC Refresher – Carolina Highlands	Banner Elk	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	
CPR Events held in Region for 2005-2006						
Aug	13-14	Bike Race and CPR	Sugar Mtn	Larry Fleming 828-437-8448	lmfeveski@bellsouth.net	
Educational Courses for 2005-2006						
June	25	Patroller Enrichment Seminar (PES)	Sugar Mtn	Mary Underwood 865-483-3675	inu@bellsouth.net	8:30 am
Region Events for 2005-2006						
Sept	17	Hawksnest Golf Tournament	Hawksnest	Jonathan Hale 336-403-9622	jhale@jhet.com	
Oct	8	Octoberfest	Sugar Mtn	Flynn Harris 704-336-5487	eflynnh@bellsouth.net	8:30 am
Dec	3	Senior Emergency Mgmt Clinic	Beech Mtn	Lisa Adams 828-387-2892	fkinteriors@skybest.com	8:30 am
Dec	4	Region S & T Examiners Clinic	Appalachian	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
Dec	10	Toboggan Seminar	Beech Mtn	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Alternate Date is December 17	8:30 am start
Jan	7	Senior S & T Clinic	Beech Mtn	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
Jan	8	Basic S & T Evaluation	Sugar Mtn	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
Jan	21	Senior Emergency Mgmt Evaluation	Beech Mtn	Lisa Adams 828-387-2892	fkinteriors@skybest.com	8:30 am
Jan	22	Basic S & T Evaluation	Beech Mtn	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
Jan	28,29	Senior S & T Evaluation	Hawksnest	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
Feb	11	Basic S & T Evaluation	Hawksnest	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am
Mar	5	Basic S & T Evaluation	Appalachian	Mark Rees 704-896-0747	Mark.rees@synapsetechnology.com	8:30 am

Dixie Region Calendar

OEC Courses and Challenges held in Region for 2005-2006						
June	11	OEC @ Atlanta	Atlanta Area	Ann Christenson 770-394-5869	annchristenson@bellsouth.net	
Jul	16	OEC Course @ Wolf Laurel	Wolf Laurel, NC	Bill Boughton 828-645-8670	bill@boughton.com	
Aug	3	Gatlinburg OEC	Gatlinburg TN	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197	bnoswoosh@aol.com	Weds 6-10 pm
Nov	16	OEC Challenge		Brandon Olson 865-471-5197	bnoswoosh@aol.com	Deadline 9-1-05
Dec	3-4	OEC Challenge	Cataloochee	Ann Christenson 770-394-5869	annchristenson@bellsouth.net	
OEC Events held in Region for 2005-2006						
Oct	8	Cataloochee OEC Instruc Refresher	Western Carolina	Steve McCarragher 864-226-0019	mac001@charter.net	
Oct	15	OEC Inst. Refresh @ Gatlinburg	Gatlinburg, TN	Jimmy Kuneman 865-850-7547	drjkuneman@aol.com	Pellissippi St TCC
Nov	5	OEC Inst. Refresh @ Wolf Laurel	Asheville, NC	Bill Boughton 828-645-8670	bill@boughton.com	
Nov	5	Atlanta OEC Refresher	Atlanta, GA	Michael Steinberg	msteinberg@mindspring.com	Open 2 all patrollers
Nov	5	OEC Refresher @ Cataloochee	Cataloochee, NC	Steve Mccarragher 864-226-0019	mac001@charter.net	
Nov	6	Cataloochee On The Hill	Cataloochee, NC	Dan Greene 770-640-6396	d.greene@mindspring.com	
Nov	12	OEC Refresher @ Gatlinburg	Gatlinburg, TN	Jimmy Kuneman 865-850-7547	drjkuneman@aol.com	Pellissippi St TCC
Nov	13	Gatlinburg On The Hill	Gatlinburg, TN	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197	bnoswoosh@aol.com	
Nov	19	OEC Refresher @ Wolf Laurel	Asheville, NC	Bill Boughton 828-645-8670	bill@boughton.com	
Nov	20	Wolf Laurel On The Hill	Wolf Laurel, NC	Bill Boughton 828-645-8670	bill@boughton.com	9:00 am
Jan	3	Smoky Mtn Nordic On The Hill	Smoky Mt Natl Pk	Andy Meachan 865-494-8838	ammeacha@icx.net	
CPR Events held in Region for 2005-2006						
Sept	TBD	Sky Valley CPR Refresher	Atlanta, GA	Sylvia Talley (770) 552-8968	snowmedic@mindspring.com	
Oct	TBD	Atlanta CPR Refresher	Atlanta, GA	Melanie Wolford 770-426-4182	mwolf39121@aol.com	
Nov	13	Gatlinburg CPR Refresher	Gatlinburg, TN	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197	bnoswoosh@aol.com	
Nov	4	Cataloochee CPR Refresher	Maggie Valley, NC	Wayne Morgan 828-926-0258 X 316	papawfwm@bellsouth.net	
Nov	TBD	Asheville CPR Refresher	Asheville, NC	TBD		
Educational Courses for 2005-2006						
Jun	25	Patroller Enrichment Seminar	Sugar	Mary Underwood 865-483-3675	jnu@bellsouth.net	8:00 am-4:00pm
Aug	TBD	Instructor Development Course	TBD	Bob Landin 770-640-6771	landin@comcast.net	
Jan	12	Toboggan Enhancement Clinic	Cataloochee	Tom Raudorf 865-483-5818	craudorf@aol.com	
Jan	29	Ski Enhancement Clinic	Cataloochee Ski	Tom Raudorf 865-483-5818	craudorf@aol.com	
Mar	7	Avalanche Fundamentals	Cullowhee, NC	Dennis Slagle 919-528-9279	dslagle2@nc.rr.com	

Dixie Educational Courses for 2005-2006 Continued

MTR Fundamentals	TBD	John Parker 828-648-1931
MTR Level 1		
MTR Level 2		

Region Events for 2005-2006

Dec	1-4	Atlanta Ski Swap Sale	Atlanta, GA	Ann Christenson 770-394-5869	annchristenson@bellsouth.net	Cobb Galleria Spec
Jan	7	Toboggan Enhancement Seminar	Ober Gatlinburg	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197	bnoswoosh@aol.com	Deadline 12-31-05
Jan	8	Examiner's Proficiency Clinic	Ober Gatlinburg	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197	bnoswoosh@aol.com	9:00am-5:00pm
Jan	12	Toboggan Enhancement Seminar	Cataloochee	Brandon Olson 865-471-5197	bnoswoosh@aol.com	Deadline 1-5-06
Jan	15	Senior S&T Clinic	Gatlinburg, TN	Bob Brewster 828 684-8100	bobbrewster@charter.net	
Feb	2	Senior S&T Evaluation	Gatlinburg, TN	Bob Brewster 828 684-8100	bobbrewster@charter.net	
Jan	22	Senior OEC Clinic	Cataloochee, NC	Bob Brewster 828 684-8100	bobbrewster@charter.net	
Feb	26	Senior OEC Evaluation	Cataloochee, NC	Bob Brewster 828 684-8100	bobbrewster@charter.net	

Virginia Region Calendar 2005-2006

Month	Date	Event	Location	Contact	E-Mail Address	Comments
OEC Courses And Challenges Held In Region For 2005-2006						
Sep	10	OEC Course Starts @ Wintergreen	Wintergreen	Greg Pence 804-821-4309	gpence@flowserve.com	
Nov	5	OEC Course Starts @ Massanutten	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954	bdrewnowski@massresort.com	
OEC Events Held In Region For 2005-2006						
Sep	10	Refresher Planning Meeting	Massanutten	Will Drury 540-421-4890	mgb72wj@planetcomm.net	
Sep	24	Pre-Refresher @ Wintergreen	Wintergreen	Ted Forbes 434-979-7586	ted.forbes@capitalone.com	
Oct	1	Pre-Refresher @ Bryce	Bryce	Nancy Dibenedetto 202-877-1423	nancy.m.dibenedetto@medstar.net	
Oct	2	OEC Refresher @ Bryce - Lift Evac	Bryce	Nancy Dibenedetto 202-877-1423	nancy.m.dibenedetto@medstar.net	
Oct	10	Pre-Refresher @ Massanutten	Massanutten	Will Drury 540-421-4890	mgb72wj@planetcomm.net	
Oct	15	Wintergreen On-The Hill	Wintergreen	Tucker Crolius 434-325-8060	tcrolius@aol.com	
Oct	16	OEC Refresher @ Wintergreen	Rockfish Valley Sc	Ted Forbes 434-979-7586	ted.forbes@capitalone.com	
Oct	21	Pre-Refresher @ Homestead	Homestead	Bill Smith 757-851-1581	skibill@widomaker.com	
Oct	22	OEC Refresher @ Homestead	Homestead	Bill Smith 757-851-1581	skibill@widomaker.com	
Oct	29	Massanutten On-The-Hill	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954	bdrewnowski@massresort.com	
Oct	30	OEC Refresher @ Massanutten	Massanutten	Will Drury 540-421-4890	mgb72wj@planetcomm.net	
CPR Events Held In Region For 2005-2006						
Jun	18	Bryce CPR Refresher/Meeting/Cookout	Bryce	Nancy Dibenedetto 202-877-1423	nancy.m.dibenedetto@medstar.net	
Jun	18	Wintergreen CPR/Annual Mtg/Picnic	Wintergreen	Tucker Crolius 434-325-8060	tcrolius@aol.com	
Sep	25	CPR Refresher @ Wintergreen	Wintergreen	Tucker Crolius 434-325-8060	tcrolius@aol.com	
Educational Courses Held In Region For 2005-2006						
TBD	TBD	Instructor Development	Wintergreen	Morgan Armstrong 276-629-1654	rmasp@adelphia.net	Min = 6 \$10 Fee
Oct	15	MTR	Massanutten	Paul Hansen 540-289-9586		Min = 5 \$10 Fee
Dec	10	Patroller Enrichment Seminar	Homestead	Mary Underwood 865-483-3675	jnu@bellsouth.net	Min = 6 \$10 Fee
Jan	15	Skier Enhancement Seminar	Wintergreen	John Shaffer 703-719-5945	john.shaffer@cfsc.army.mil	Min = 6 \$10 Fee
Jan	28	Toboggan Enhancement Seminar	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8486	heardmtn99@aol.com	No Min \$10 Fee
Feb	4	Transportation Instructor Course	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8486	heardmtn99@aol.com	Min = 6 \$10 Fee
Mar	12	Avalanche Fundamentals & Rescue	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8486	heardmtn99@aol.com	Min = 6 \$10 Fee

Virginia Events Held In The Region For 2005-2006

May	14	Massanutten Yee-Ha Bike Race Bryce CPR	Massanutten	Kenny Hess 540-289-4954	kenhess@adelphia.net
Jun	18	Refresher/Meeting/Cookout	Bryce	Nancy Dibenedetto 202-877-1423	nancy.m.dibenedetto@medstar.net
Jun	18	Wintergreen Picnic Bryce Pre-Refresher, Lift Evac, Fall	Wintergreen	Tucker Crolius 434-325-8060	tcrolius@aol.com
Oct	1	Meeting	Bryce	Nancy Dibenedetto 202-877-1423	nancy.m.dibenedetto@medstar.net
Oct	2	Bryce OEC Refresher	Bryce	Nancy Dibenedetto 202-877-1423	nancy.m.dibenedetto@medstar.net
Nov	12	Massanutten Ski Swap	Massanutten	Kenny Hess 540-289-4955	kenhess@adelphia.net
Nov	25	Wintergreen Ski Swap	Wintergreen	Jim Mccaslin 703-250-5193	mccaslin_jim@hotmail.com
Dec	10	Massanutten Transfer Orientation	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954	bdrewnowski@massresort.com
Dec	11	Wintergreen Transfer Orientation	Wintergreen	Ed Pouncey 703-266-2943	ed.pouncey@fairfaxcounty.gov
Jan	7	Senior Ski Clinic - Full Day	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4955	bdrewnowski@massresort.com
Jan	8	Senior Toboggan Clinic - Full Day Senior Emergency Management	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4955	bdrewnowski@massresort.com
Jan	21	Clinic	Bryce	T Harris 804-320-1901	tandpeg@netzero.net
Jan	22	Senior S&T Clinic	Massanutten	Mike Fisher 434-296-8486	heardmtn99@aol.com
Feb	4	Certified Operations & OEC Clinic	Massanutten	Leslie Carter 434-295-4463	cartrplmbg@aol.com
Feb	5	Certified S&T Clinic Senior Emergency Management	Massanutten	Leslie Carter 434-295-4463	cartrplmbg@aol.com
Feb	25	Evaluation	Wintergreen	T Harris 804-320-1901	tandpeg@netzero.net
Feb	26	Senior S & T Evaluation	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8486	heardmtn99@aol.com
Mar	12	Massanutten Picnic	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4954	bdrewnowski@massresort.com

West Virginia Region Calendar 2005-2006

OEC Courses and Challenges held in Region for 2005-2006					
Nov	22	Snowshoe OEC Course Start	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
		Winterplace OEC Ccourse Start	Beckley WV	Walter Watson 304-253-6963	
Oct	22, 23	OEC Challenge	Sugar Mtn	Larry Fleming 828-437-8448	
OEC Events held in Region for 2005-2006					
Sept	24	Snowshoe Pre Refresher	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
		Timberline Pre Refresher	Timberline	Janette Bennett 304-866-4925	
Oct	15	Timberline OEC Refresher	Timberline	Janette Bennett 304-866-4925	
Aug	28	Winterplace Pre Refresher	Winterplace	Jorge McMurray 304-252-3345	
Oct	8	Snowshoe OEC Refresher	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
Oct	22	Winterplace OEC Refresher	Winterplace	Jorge McMurray 304-252-3345	
CPR Events held in Region for 2005-2006					
Pct		Winterplace CPR Refresher	Winterplace	Deanna Watson 304-253-6963	lmfeveski@bellsouth.net
Educational Courses for 2005-2006					
Dec	11	Instructor Development	Winterplace	Greg Rash 502-423-0261	
Dec	17	Ski Trainers Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
Jan	8	Toboggan Enhancement Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
		Toboggan Enhancement Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
Feb	11	Women's Only Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
Jan	7	Ski Enhancement Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
		Ski Enhancement Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
Mar	11	Avalanche 1	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8485	Heardmtn99@aol.com
		MTR Fundamentals			
Mar	6	MTR Level 1	Massanutten		
		MTR Level 2			

West Virginia Region Events for 2005-2006					
Jan	9	Basic Telemark Clinic	Winterplace	Tom Wagner 304-787-3221	
Jan	29	Basic OEC Evaluation	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
Jan	30	Basic S & T Evaluation	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net

Feb	5	Senior S & T Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
Feb	4	Senior Emergency Management Clinic	Winterplace	Tom Wagner 304-787-3221	
Feb	27	Senior S & T Clinic	Winterplace	Tom Wagner 304-787-3221	
		Basic S & T Evaluation	Winterplace	Tom Wagner 304-787-3221	
		Basic OEC Evaluation	Timberline	Janette Bennett 304-599-4915	
Mar	6	Basic S & T Evaluation	Timberline	Steve Cvechko 304-776-8540	
Mar	5	Senior S & T Evaluation	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713	mvfarm@frontiernet.net
Mar	4	Senior Emergency Mgmt Evaluation	Timberline	Janette Bennett 304-599-4915	

Certified Events for 2005-2006

Jan	21	Certified Clinic	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1262	For S&T, Mtn Ops, OEC
Mar	17	Certified Pre Evaluation Clinic	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1262	
Mar	18/19	Certified Evaluation	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1263	

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Southern Cross

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Southern Cross is published three times a year—fall, mid winter and spring. Articles and photos are encouraged and appreciated. With photos, please include caption information. If at all possible, please include a photo of the author with articles. Submission deadline for the mid-winter issue is May 12, 2005.

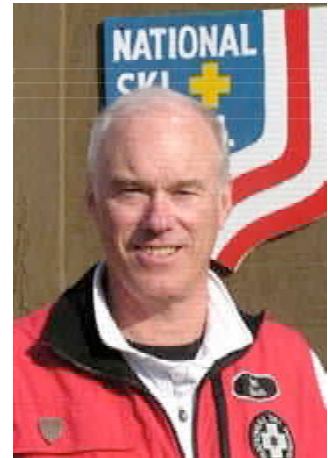
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Who's Organization or Association is it anyway?

Neil Booth, Division Director

If the belief, or thought, our organization or association belongs to anyone beyond you or membership itself, the thinking is invalid! We are an Association of members who all belong to the National Ski Patrol System. **We** are an Association of members who are geographically located into Divisions, Regions and most importantly, Patrol Units, working directly for resorts. Resorts rule! They should have in the past, they are in the present, and will continue to rule in the future.



So, what is NSP all about then? When NSP is referred to, it means our National Associations headquarters in Denver, your respective division and region. Yes, NSP establishes guidelines to follow, however, final policies come directly from each resorts Patrol bylaws, policies and ultimately, resort management. Now, do not read this to mean that NSP is not involved in the matters of your patrol or your patrolling career. We all know, or should, that NSP provides a great deal of opportunity for each of us. We should be aware that NSP is the body that develops educational programs for our Association and members. You as the member, directly benefit from our Association. In the end result, your respective patrols take the programs offered by NSP and utilize them in organizing the patrol into the fine-tuned operating units that they are. Your respective Patrol Leadership molds and adapts these programs into their operating procedures, along with resort specific needs, to make the valuable services we provide to the consumers of our sport, at the resort.

You have heard my predecessors and me state that we are a changing organizational Association. We are and have been for 65 years! We will continue to do so for many years to come. From the inception of our Association, NSP established policies that newly formed resorts could follow and adopt. Not because

resorts had to, but because NSP had pre-established programs and standard for resorts to follow. As our industry and resorts matured, they began to formulate their resort operating procedures. This coupled with the environment we live and operate in today, have changed how we as an Association must be to our membership. One could argue that it has changed a lot. Others might argue there has been little change. The only thing certain is, change big or small has and will continue to occur. We need to continue being adaptable to changing needs. Our main purpose within the Southern Division is to make sure that we are providing resorts and membership with the best educational programs available to meet your needs. Our [OEC](#) course is an excellent example and our most important educational offering. From full OEC courses, to OEC challenges, to refreshers, we offer members what resorts are asking for. Our next most important program is our new [Transportation](#) educational program that is being released as you read. It gives you the guidelines needed on proper handling of toboggans. Our division ski school is making great headway after 6 short years in operation and providing a good resource to all members, not just candidates. We have a brand new [Instructor Development](#) “on-line” course that is also being released as we speak. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, this is the first step you must take. I also encourage current Instructor Development Instructors to consider retaking this new course! Perhaps the three most beneficial ongoing programs are the [Enhancement Seminars](#) (Skiing, Toboggan Handling and OEC Emergency Management). These courses are open to everyone and are absolutely wonderful one-day events. I know the offering of these three courses have been very limited and I as Division Director will take the responsibility for making them more readily available in the future. However, I cannot and will not try to mandate or force these programs on membership or patrols. They are excellent programs, if you take advantage of them. Please, ask you Patrol Representative/ Director to give you information about these courses. Brief descriptions are listed in the NSP Catalog, under NSP Education Courses. They are not exams and never will be! They are highly experiential courses geared to make you more proficient and enjoy what you do even more! Please, take advantage of these great offerings.

This years OEC refresher proved to be another great cycle year. We saw a lot of good information exchanged and simply good refreshing. Along the same line, all of the OEC courses are now complete and we have gained new members, which is critical to all of us. Congratulations to all new members and welcome!

The season certainly had a mixed start, but everyone reports having a very good holiday season. Then came the long warm spell that put some resorts on the sidelines waiting for cold weather to return. It is hard to do ski and toboggan training when the slopes we need to train on are closed. We are a resilient group and we will make up for lost days and still get the job done, we always do! Enjoy the rest of the season and I hope to see some of you during my visits.

I will close with what I have stated in the past. The division and NSP should be a seamless operation that works with your respective resorts to bring you the best in education. Seams are only seen when National, Division or Regions mandate it. You have my promise that you will never see a seam as long as I am Division Director. If you think you see a seam, please let me know by a simple email or phone call.

You are all a wonderful group of individuals and I have enjoyed many new and old friendships from our Association. We enjoy one another, we enjoy the sport, we enjoy what we do or we simply would not continue to do so. In talking to most of the resorts, I know they all appreciate the valuable services each of you provides.

Keep up the great work, challenge yourself in becoming more
knowledgeable and growing beyond belief.

Instructor Development Program

Morgan Armstrong

First Assistant Division Director & Instructor Development Supervisor

Instructor Development Program has a new Supervisor!

Ann T. Wood has been appointed as the new Supervisor for the Instructor Development Program for the Southern Division. The appointment takes place January 2005 and Ann is replacing **Morgan Armstrong**, who has filled in as temporary Supervisor for the past several years. Ann moves up from her position as Region Administrator for the Blue Ridge Region, a job she has held with excellence. Her home patrol is Beech Mountain and she will be bringing the Instructor Development Program along to new levels of achievement. Everyone is asked to join with the division in welcoming Ann to this new position. Along with the welcome each patrol is requested to prepare to submit names of those patrollers being noted for advancement into the instructor corps of the division.

The first step is the Instructor Development Course, so each patrol representative is asked to begin forming up new candidates for enrollment in the courses that will be held this year. Ann will be organizing the courses and it is up to the patrollers and patrol representatives to begin the process of passing names into the system so courses can be started and candidates contacted. If you have six or more candidates ready for the course in your patrol you may qualify for a course at your resort. If you have one or more names, please submit them now so no one will be missed. Ann is ready to go so please help her by getting in those names.



END OF YEAR REPORTS are due for the Ski Season 2004-2005 from all patrols and program supervisors.

Patrols have an easy form which will be sent to each representative by mail or email, but it is the same as the form for last year. The information should be in the process of being written down over the course of the ski season rather than waiting for a rush at the deadline. Please begin to finalize your reports and send them to your patrol region director and to me **R. Morgan Armstrong** at my address: P.O. Box 699, Collinsville, VA 24078-0699 or at my email address: rmasp@adelphia.net.

Please check your math this year. The total number of patrollers should equal the paid and volunteer numbers. The number of patrollers in each rank (candidate, basic, etc...) should again add up to the total number of patrollers. When I read 40 volunteers and 20 paid patrollers for a total of 83, I begin to worry and being an English Major, I start to have a panic attack. Please help me avoid this mental stress!

Supervisors are requested to give a brief summary of your plans, goals and accomplishments for the year so we can track how each program is doing in the division. **Officers** should send in a short report on what you have been doing regarding visitation and personal training and program participation. **Program Supervisors** should forward this report to the Assistant Division Director to whom you are assigned.

Questions and problems may be directed to **R. Morgan Armstrong**, 1st ADD, Southern Division and I will be happy to help you iron out the difficulties. Thank you for your time and effort to keep us informed on the work you are doing in the field.

Learning All Over Again -

Dennis Slagle

Assistant Division Director - Southern Area



As this ski season had not topped the charts as far snowmaking and skiing are concerned, it may end up being a record setter for warm weather. Maybe cold weather will have some mercy and come stick around for just a little while. Even though we have not had an extended ski season so far, I did get a chance to attend the Smoky Mountain Region's Examiner Clinic and Ski Trainers' Workshop. With the summer conditions existing for several weeks, **Wolf Laurel** still had some very good ski conditions, though not a large choice of slopes.

I have to admit that I learned to ski many eons ago and have had the chance to participate in the proficiency program in Southern Division to learn more ski skills and become more proficient in clinic, examining, and improving my own skiing. When I learned all these skills, it was with the old straight-sided skis. I have since switched over to the shaped designs for the last couple of pairs I have owned. Anyone who has skied shaped skis will appreciate the quickness and ease of turning the shaped side-cuts afford.

I have not had significant ski lessons since changing to the shaped skis, so I had never been exposed to the latest techniques afforded by the shaped design. During the **Ski Trainers Workshop**, while sharpening our examining skills, we essentially had an all day ski lesson from an excellent level III ski instructor. While not radically different, I still feel like I have to learn skiing all over again. The exercises and techniques now taught by the PSIA afford better utilization of the shaped design.

If you have not had the chance to receive some instruction on the new techniques, you really need to see the NSP PSIA instructor(s) at your area to get some inside info on the new techniques. It really puts some incite into how the shaped designs work for you to make skiing easier. Just about every ski area has at least one NSP PSIA instructor. While the original intent of these instructors is to help candidates, all patrollers can benefit from their instruction.

One of the goals of the NSP ski school this year is to hold a **Ski Enhancement Seminar** at every area. Maybe even two or three if needed. Don't get behind in updating your ski skills when instruction is readily available within the Southern Division NSP.

Notes From The North...

Jan Starr

Assistant Division Director - North Area



I hope that as you read this, winter has returned. It is past due. My thoughts are with everyone as we all struggle through this. Thanks to the folks that keep us all together and get us through one more day of warmth.

Even though the conditions are marginal, we still have to keep our skills up. There will be training happening throughout the rest of the season. Check your calendar and touch base with the respective call person to see what changes there may be. It is hard to train new candidates in this kind of weather, but I know we are all up for the challenge. Keep the spirit up and do some snow dances!

Virginia Region

Bill Smith
Virginia Region Director

News From Up North in Virginia!!!

Well, here we are once again in the midst of another hopefully great ski season. Things up this way got off to a rather slow start this season compared to last year. Most of our areas in Virginia didn't manage to get open until the week of December 17th. So we have a little catching up to do, maybe on the other end of the season.



Although the weather did not cooperate for us, our education programs all got off to a flying start. In November, **Wintergreen** hosted an **Instructor Development** program that was attended by ten of our guys and gals. The program went well so we now have ten new souls ready to get more involved. Speaking of getting more involved, on December 11th **Mary Underwood** and her staff traveled up to The **Homestead** and put on a great **Patroller Enrichment Seminar (PES)** program. In all there were six students, five from Virginia and

one from West Virginia. In listening to the many questions and other exchanges during the program, it appeared that much was learned by all attending. The region **Senior** program is up and running with good participation once again. That should prove to be an exciting time for all involved. Lastly, on March 12th an **Avalanche** program will be offered. So for those of you that are procrastinating, there is still time for you to get into a program and new training this season.

During the off season, a number of Virginia areas made improvements to their respective areas. Some of those included:

- **Bryce:** After unveiling the impressive Ridge Runner's Snow Tubing Park last year, they have added a new "magic carpet" to the starter hill to move beginners up the mountain more efficiently.
- **The Homestead:** This year, The Homestead has widened all of their trails and increased the size of their Playland Terrain Park by adding six new rails. They have also added an additional lane to their tubing park.
- **Massanutten:** The folks at Massanutten understand that not everyone is an expert boarder or skier, so they've added a new beginner's terrain park this year. The park will feature all of the mainstays of the advanced park, but the rails and jibs will be easier to access and maneuver, and the kickers will be smaller and easier to land. It's perfect for those who want to ease into the gnarly world of freestyle. It also has its own lift.
- **Wintergreen:** Last year, Wintergreen expanded the expert run, Wild Turkey, allowing for bumps to gather on one side while the other side stayed groomed. This year they've added another expert slope, the Gap, which connects the Dobie slope and the Devil's Elbow, which will mean quicker access to the lift. Devil's Elbow has been expanded and so has Turkey Chute, making Wintergreen the only resort to add new terrain this season. And if that were not enough, they've added a new high-speed six-person chair to the Highlands expert terrain.



At the FOM back in August, **Peggy and “T” Harris** were honored with *National Appointments* for their hard work within their patrol, the region and the division. It is believed that they may be the only husband and wife couple to ever receive National Appointments at the same time. A hardy “CONGRATULATION’s” to both of you!!!

Former Wintergreen Patroller Killed in Rescue Chopper Crash



Monday night, January 10, LifeEvac II crashed into the Potomac just after crossing over the Wilson Bridge. Details about the accident and cause are still unknown, but there are several cranes on the bridge and helicopters are required to fly low in that area (300ft) because of Reagan Airport. The flight paramedic was **Nikki Kielar** and unfortunately she and the pilot Joseph Schaefer died in the crash. The flight nurse survived and was transported to Washington Hospital Center. Many folks on the patrol remember Nikki from her brief time on Ski Patrol, but many of them knew Nikki for many years from UVA and Charlottesville Rescue. She was a warm and caring person and like a sister to many of them. She will be missed very much. Her untimely death leaves a void for many.

West Virginia Region

Jon Dragan,
West Virginia Region Director

The report from the West Virginia region is that it is cold and it is finally snowing! While each of the resorts has had some cold weather and some ability to make snow, it seems that the ground no sooner gets covered and another warm spell moves through the area. At the writing of this report it is COLD and it is SNOWING, maybe winter is finally here!



Snowshoe/Silvercreek have been busy with their expansion program both for lodging and slope activities. Slope maintenance and snowmaking is ongoing and all programs have had good participation from patrollers. So far the mountain has hosted two **OEC Clinics**, an upcoming **S & T Clinic** and they will be hosting the **Sr. S & T Evaluation** on March 6th.

Timberline resort has been making snow whenever and wherever possible just as all the resorts have been doing in West Virginia. Timberline ski area will be hosting the **Sr. Emergency Management Clinic** on the 5th of February and we would urge all likely candidates to contact **Steve Cvechko** at (304) 776-8540 to let him know you are planning to attend. Remember in order to attend the evaluation you must attend the clinic. This has always been a very informative clinic and will show all interested patrollers just what the evaluators will be looking for in the evaluation.

Winterplace has been busy with snowmaking and trail maintenance, trying to make the most of cold weather and snowmaking capabilities. On January 7th & 8th, **Winterplace Ski Patrol** conducted a series of **Leapfrog Clinics** to improve its ability to get a patient in cardiac arrest off the mountain. While each clinic went well in the practical exercise, all patrollers involved were able to see first hand how the sequence of events unfolded and how to adapt to this complex and dynamic situation. The goal was to start CPR within 2 minutes and get the patient to the AED within 4 minutes. Each patroller definitely improved their individual skills and all aspects of the scenario



were realistic as possible, including the use of oxygen and the AED. Based on what they saw at their clinics, they would recommend all patrols participate in a real-life arrest on the mountain to keep all patrollers up on the latest procedures. If you would like additional information on these clinics or assistance in setting up a **Leapfrog Clinic**, contact **Walter Watson** at (304) 253 - 6963.

Don't forget **Winterplace** will be hosting the **Senior. Emergency Management Evaluation** on March 13th and all are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending this Sr. Clinic please contact **Tom Wagner** at (304) 787-3221.

(Photo submitted by Jon Dragan)

Blue Ridge Region

Mike Harris

Blue Ridge Region Director



The Blue Ridge Region had an excellent refresher cycle again this year. Our OEC instructors put in a lot of planning and hard work. We were fortunate to have a visit from **Wings Air Rescue** at all four of our areas on the Sunday on-the-hill portion of our refreshers. This afforded an opportunity to practice landing zone preparation and to interact with the rescue personnel with Wings. Winter weather arrived a little late in the high country. It got cold enough to get a good snow pack for the Christmas holidays and then the mother of January thaws paid an unwelcome visit. Cold

temperatures arrived just in time for MLK weekend. The only event that had to be rescheduled was the **Senior S&T Clinic** that was scheduled for Jan. 8th. There just wasn't enough snow to safely stay out of the way of the customers, the event was just changed to Sunday, January 23rd. at **Beech Mountain**.

On January 9th we had the first basic **S&T Evaluation** in the region at **Sugar Mountain**.



The evaluators were **E.B. Fox, Christy Myatt, David Hall, Andy Moody, and Jim Bolton**. The course was setup by **Howard Tilley**, patient in the sled was **Flynn Harris**, and yours truly was the advocate. All seven candidates demonstrated all skills necessary. **Sara Reed, Jeannie Church, Terry Hefner, John Powell, Monica Hicks, Megan Archer, and Brad Blackwell** all did an excellent job.

I hope everyone has a great season. Our areas are recovering quickly with the cold temperatures return. Don't forget the deadline for signing up for Powderfall-05-has been extended.

In Memory – Jim Hunter

Jim Hunter, a 25-year veteran of NSP and **Beech** Mountain Ski Patrol, passed away this past Thanksgiving Day. His wish was to have his ashes spread on the mountain he loved so much. He wanted to keep an eye on us. On Saturday, January 22, 2005, his wish was granted.

The day was windy and there was a mix of precipitation with sleet and rain and freezing rain. A ceremony was planned to follow the sweep at the end of the day session. Over fifty patrollers assembled at the top of the mountain for the procession and Jim Hunter's final sweep. Just as the ceremony was preparing to head down the mountain the clouds separated and there was a brief glimpse of blue sky, and then it started to snow. Mr. Hunter's ashes were scattered on Upper Shawneehaw as the procession of patrollers worked its way down the slope.

As the patrol procession reached the ski patrol base, Tom Watson announced over the radio, *"The mountain is clear. Unit 33 is now cleared to go 10-7, but he will always be 10-8 in our hearts. Rest in Peace, Mr. Hunter."* We remained as a group outside the patrol room as Bob Mahoney delivered an emotional eulogy followed by "Amazing Grace" played by a lone bagpiper. A few remaining ashes were scattered around the outside of the ski patrol base area.



(photo from Beech Mountain)

IN LOVING MEMORY
Bob Mahoney's Eulogy to Jim Hunter

Jim Hunter--- Unit 33--Jimbo I called him, Husband, father, brother, uncle, colleague, mentor, but most of all a true friend.

Jim was a man of great stature even though he was short in height. But no man could have stood any taller than Jim, his actions and deeds brought him to a level most of us only dream of reaching.

Jim never met a stranger, and always put others in front of his own personal needs. When his ankle was bothering him to the point he could barely walk, he still found a way to get to the mountain and work the Base in a totally efficient manner, a lot of times by himself. Never complaining and never stopping because he was in sever pain at times.

Jim used his knowledge and talents to bring our ski patrol and other organizations he was associated with to a higher level of competence and expertise.

Jim loved this mountain and his family of friends which he created up here over the years, we are all part of Jims family along with Jerry, and his sons and daughter.

One of Jim's last statements to me at the last refresher in November was that when he passed on he wanted to have his ashes spread on Shawneehaw so he would always be up here on the Mountain that he loved so much.

Well Jim your wish will be granted today, We are sadden that you had to leave us before we had a chance to say good by, but a greater power chose you to come home and we shall be happy for you. We all hope to see you again ON A SNOW CAPPED MOUNTAIN in HEAVEN when this point in our life comes.

We will not say goodby, but so long till we see you again.

Let us pause for a moment of silence.

Please join me in the Lords Prayer.
All: Lords Prayer

Date: 1/22/2005

In Memory – Sugar Mountain

Delphine Hancock passed away on December 14, 2004.

Delphine achieved the level of Senior Patroller and served the National Ski Patrol for 33 years. She was born in Detroit Michigan on September 5, 1935. She was educated at The University of Michigan and held B.S. and M.S. design degrees.

Delphine enjoyed an active career as an art teacher and active artist. Her artwork earned her awards in many local and regional art shows. She traveled extensively and was an avid bridge player.

Delphine retired 2 years ago and will be remembered as a dependable patroller who was part of our patrol's hard core. Her cheer and good humor were fixtures in our patrol room each weekend. She will be sorely missed by us all.

Submitted by Flynn Harris
Sugar Mountain Ski Patrol

On Saturday, January 23rd we held the Senior Emergency Management Evaluation at Beech Mountain. We had 13 participants, 12 of which passed at the end of the clinic. Temperatures at the beginning of the day started out around 18 degrees and finally reached about 38 degrees with rain and sleet. The gusts of wind were fierce, at best, all day.



(Chris Broderick-left photo- and Michael Benbow-right photo @ Senior Emergency Management Evaluation)
(Photos by Mike Harris)

On Sunday, January 24th, we held the Senior S&T Clinic. This Clinic had originally been scheduled for January 8th but had to be cancelled due to the warm weather at the time. This was not a problem on the 24th with the high temperature at the top of Beech reaching less than 1 degree F. Again we were faced with gusts of high winds and at times white out conditions. The weather cleared somewhat in the afternoon. We had 12 brave candidates participating in the clinic.

I would personally like to thank all the dedicated patrollers for braving the severe weather conditions, and the hazardous driving conditions, to put on a successful program for Saturday and Sunday.

Wings Air Rescue

Appalachian Ski Mountain, **Beech** Mountain and ski patrols were visited by **Wings Air**



Center in Tennessee during their on-the-hill refreshers on November 7, 2004. Each patrol participated in training presented on proper notification, stand-by status, establishing a safe landing zone, safety while approaching and loading the helicopter. Several patrollers were given the opportunity to fly in the helicopter as part of the training.

While located in Johnson City, Tennessee, Wings Air Rescue is the closest Level I Trauma Center for ski areas located in Watauga and Avery Counties in North Carolina. Weather permitting, they are always willing to respond to calls from patrols for patients needing rapid transport and meeting local EMS protocols.

Wings also visited **Hawksnest** and **Sugar** Mountain on their On-The-Hill days October 4, 2004. The patrollers learned and had hands-on with what it takes to fly a patient off a mountain. From packaging the patient on the hill, sharing the patient information from the patrollers to the flight crew and scene control for landing.....loading.....and lifting off again. (Photos submitted by Cindy Soule)

(Trauma manikin used for safety training and proper loading on the helicopter)



(Appalachian Patrollers Cindy Soule and Cindy Hinshaw flying over Appalachian Ski Mountain)

Smoky Mountain Region

Richard Boyer – Region Director

Those hard working folks go to grand lengths to get your attention and help you get the most out of a refresher. One of the most inventive and unique is illustrated by **Mike Wolf**, an outstanding OEC instructor at **Cataloochee**. He used these clothes, the incredible teeth, his infamous dog, and a routine which had everyone riveted to what he was conveying.

In the **Smoky Mountain Region** we have all gotten off to a very good start on the 2004-2005 season. Again we did an outstanding job with the refreshers at all three areas in our Region. Each of us patrollers should thank the OEC instructors, the Instructor trainers, your patrol reps, and **Larry Erb** for pulling it all together into a successful and challenging refresher.

Our main job, day in and day out, is to serve the ski area's management in carrying out the job they depend on us to do. We as patrollers should be aware of ways to better accomplish this task. We don't work for the NSP or the Southern Division--we work for the management team of our ski area.

I'd like us all to become goal oriented. I've asked each of Smoky Mountain PR's to give me a slate of goals for this year. Setting & accomplishing goals is the best way I know of moving ahead and progressing toward becoming a better patroller, a better patrol, and a better Division.

We still need to work on the main focus of the NSP. That main function is delivering educational programs to the body of the NSP, the patrollers. I challenge each PR to make a plan for each of your patrollers regarding where you'd like them to be in one year, two years, etc. That is, what experience, education and involvement you therefore need from each of them in your patrol. Make a written plan for each patroller. Start with the newest ones and work backward up through the patroller ranks until you have outlined a plan for each one. Then communicate with each one and share this roadmap with them and get their input and adjust the plan, if necessary. When you are asked about any particular individual I'd like to hear what the plan is for their accomplishments in the Southern Division of the NSP in coming years.

One of the most common goals is and should be specific recruiting targets. Each and every patroller needs to be the point person in this goal. By moving strongly with this endeavor you'd be surprised at how quickly results will be realized. Ask **Tom Raudorf**, PR at **Cataloochee**, how he went from 1 candidate to 7 in two months by strongly enlisting his patrollers as recruiters. He has recruiters who 2 months ago didn't even know how to begin recruiting and now we see them leading the call for new patrollers every day.

See you on the slopes.
Richard Boyer, Region Director



Mountain Travel and Rescue

Bob Chatman, *Program Supervisor*
bob_chatman@hotmail.com



(photo by Bob Chatman)

Last season, in Canaan Valley, WV we held a successful **Mountain Travel and Rescue 2 (MTR2)** course. See the photo above. This is a shortened version of the report. The weekend started off with rain and flooding in most of West Virginia with many of the major roads closed. The weather caused us to lose one instructor and two students. Late Friday night the rain turned to snow with almost a foot covering the ground by morning. The snow held off during the daylight hours but then it snowed another six inches overnight while the temperatures dropped into the teens. Perfect for winter camping and an outdoor course. With two feet of snow on the ground before the start of the weekend and then the fresh snow it was post-hole or snow-shoe. I had an older pair of Tubbs snowshoes, which were very heavy and difficult to adjust. Chip from White Grass came to our rescue with state of the art MSR snowshoes. They were light and much easier to use than the older Tubbs. With just the four of us the course material was covered in less than ten hours. The students knew the material well enough to teach most of it themselves. We did have a slight glitch when it came to map and compass. I've noticed that many patrollers have a difficult time with advanced map and compass. It is probably the way it is taught in basic. I'll design a lesson plan copied after a chapter from my Orienteering book. I'll use this to supplement the NSP MTR manual. This will be implemented in the fall.

The MTR2 course last fall was cancelled because of low enrollment. In checking with other Divisions I found that enrollment has generally been down the past few years. Therefore, the MTR2 course that will be scheduled for the Fall of '05 will not have a minimum number of students. I know I'll be hearing from other NSP instructors who require a minimum number, but for MTR2 in Southern we will not have a minimum requirement.

In December, **Ben Tholkes** held an MTR1 course at Western Carolina. All reports indicate the course was a resounding success. Ben, one of our newer MTR instructors, is the most highly qualified in the division and perhaps the country.

The next scheduled MTR1 course will be at **Snowshoe**, WV on Saturday, March 6, 2005. The lead instructor will be **Bob Bodamer**, an excellent instructor who has taught more Mountaineering courses in Southern than anyone else in the past ten to fifteen years. Assisting Bob will be **Gerry Bateman**, one of our newest and most enthusiastic instructors. We have ten sign-ups at this time. The point of contact is **Jan Starr** at (304) 572-6713 or jstarr@snowshoemtn.com.

It's mid January and winter is finally here. I've spent the past few weekends winter camping in Canaan Valley. A little more snow and less rain would be more fun. But this is Southern and our winters can be like this. I use ski weekends to check and familiarize myself with my old and newer gear. There are five or six stoves in my collection. I keep searching for the perfect stove. This year I found one that I really like. It's the *Jetboil*. It comes with a cozy around the one-liter pot. The 3.5 oz. micro canisters of propane / isobutane fuel are said to boil twelve liters of water. The instructions say you can boil two cups of water in one and one half minutes. This must be under lab conditions. In below freezing temperatures it took almost three minutes to boil the two cups of water that had been buried in the snow. I've spent more time in the woods than I care to admit and I can say this is the best working and most efficient stove I've used. The only modification I'd make is to trim the top lid back so it could be opened in sub freezing temperatures. Trim some of the inside of the top off and pop it into the freezer and see if you can remove it. If not, warm it up again and trim some more, and refreeze it again. Always test your gear and food in the conditions you might encounter.



*The **Southern Cross** is always looking for articles & photos of events that our patrollers have participated in as well as information on our patrol family.*

*The **Division Archivist/Historian Supervisor (Rob Raff)** is looking for photos from all patrols in the division to update the collection.....you can email them to r Raff@etconnect.com OR mail him a CD (labeled) to Rob Raff, 4201 Vineland Road I-1, Orlando, FL 32811.*

Mountain Travel and Rescue I – a Participant’s Experience

Michael Steinberg
Sky Valley Ski Patrol



Imagine hiking through the Smoky Mountains, navigating with a map and compass, belaying a patient down a cliff, cooking and sleeping under the stars, and rappelling off of a 50 foot wall – all while acquiring additional skills that could help you save a life – and all in the course of a two-day weekend. This is what to expect when you participate in the NSP Mountain Travel and Rescue I (MTR-I) program.

According to the NSP education catalog, the course “provides students with the knowledge and skills to travel and work in reasonable safety and comfort in the outdoor environment and to be an asset to a search and/or rescue team, including possible overnight operations. Field practice includes practice in navigation, travel, survival, basic search and/or rescue exercises, and an overnight campout.”

But it’s much more than that. The short weekend provides a diversity of skills and techniques that many of us may have never experienced, at least since our boy/girl scout days. And it is sure to provide something new even to those experienced in advanced rescue techniques, not to mention those of us (like myself) who didn’t know the difference between a Petzl and a Prusik.

The program is taught by **Ben Tholkes**, Director of the Sapphire Valley Patrol, with assistance from **Bobby Bryson**, also of Sapphire. Ben brings a wealth of experience to the course, including 8 years as a ranger with the National Park Service, in such areas as Rainier, Yosemite, Yellowstone and Glacier Parks. He is currently Director of the Parks and Recreation Management program at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC.

Preparation for the course includes ordering and reading Mountain Travel and Rescue, (available from the NSP education catalog), and assembling equipment for the hike and overnight. (Ben can provide you with some of the heavy equipment such as a pack, tent, sleeping bag, and stove).

The program starts on a Saturday morning on the WCU campus. After a brief classroom session (total classroom time is only a couple of hours – the rest of the program is practical hands-on), we take a tour of the Equipment Room and are introduced to some of the technical mountaineering equipment, and get to practice tying some common knots. Then it’s on to the gym, where one of Ben’s colleagues at WCU teaches us orienteering, that is, how to navigate with a map and compass.

After lunch, we reassemble in the equipment room to be outfitted with equipment for the hike. Since this will be a back-country campout, we must bring everything we need to cook, eat, sleep, and take care of personal needs. Then it’s off on a short drive to the Deep Creek Trail in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, just outside of Bryson City, NC. It is there we start on our 2-mile hike to the campground. At every rest stop, Ben quizzes us on some pieces of MTR knowledge.

Upon arriving at the campsite, we pitch tents, start a fire, and prepare the area to be our home. We cook dinner with whatever we brought, from Ramen noodles to REI freeze-dried meals. On this trip, one of our participants had the foresight to bring ingredients for that classic camping staple – S’Mores! After dinner, Ben quizzes us some more on MTR knowledge. Since it gets dark and chilly a little after 7:00 pm in October, we all turn in early. One word of advice – bring warm clothing layers – and, just as important, bring a good sleeping pad. Those “foam jobbies just *do not do the trick!*”

The next morning, we break camp and head down the hill. (It always amazes me how the trail gets shorter overnight.) Back on campus, after a little more classroom work, we are given a search scenario on campus. We organize ourselves, break into teams and conduct the search. The final exercise is the highlight of the course – we rigged our harnesses, carabiners, figure-8's and belay lines, and went rappelling off of a 50 foot cliff! (I could have sworn it was *much* higher). We were fortunate enough to have a few certified High Angle Rescue technicians in the course to assist in set-up and in belaying us down.

MTR-I is part of a three part MTR curriculum provided by NSP. MTR Fundamentals is a one-day version of the course that does not include the hike or camp-out. MTR-II is a three-day, two-night course, which provides more advanced skills and prepares participants to help coordinate search and rescue operations.

This particular class consisted of patrollers from **Sapphire Valley**, **Sky Valley**, **Cataloochee** and **Sugar Mountain**, and a visiting patroller from **Squaw Valley**. The tools and techniques we acquire, while not used often in the South, can help make us all prepared for that time where we could be called on to use a different set of life-saving skills. I think I speak for us all when I say that that this program is *highly* recommended!

For more information, contact Ben Tholkes at tholkes@email.wcu.edu.



Participants in MTR I (October 16-17, 2004): Top row: Ben Tholkes (Sapphire Valley), Michael Steinberg, Celeste Bernstein and Jeff Leonard (Sky Valley), Scott Krein (Cataloochee), Brent Bowman (Sky Valley), Geoff VonBargen (Squaw Valley); Bottom Row: Bobby Bryson (Sapphire Valley), Terry Loges (Sugar Mountain).

More MTR-1.....



(Jeff and Terry find the trail; Scott and Ben assist)
(Photos submitted by Michael Steinberg)



(Celeste rappels down a cliff. Jeff belays from the top)



Patroller Enrichment Seminar (PES)

Mary Underwood

Patroller Enrichment Supervisor

"It Takes a Village . . ."

The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child", came to mind as I prepared to schedule The **Patroller Enrichment Seminars** in the division this fall. At the Fall Officers' Meeting, the VA-WVA regions decided to hold a PES in December. **Bill Smith**, VA Region Director, immediately volunteered to find a suitable central location for the course and to get me a list of possible participants. **Jan Starr**, ADD for the Northern Area, volunteered to help with recruitment in WVA. A few days later, **Cindy Diehl**, a PES instructor, volunteered to help teach the course. **Bill Smith** was able to get us a meeting room at **The Homestead**. What an "elegant learning environment"! On the day of the course, both Jan and Bill were in attendance (both had already taken the PES). When region and division officers participate in these kind of events, they share their expertise, and they are our "village" of support and caring. Jan also provided a real problem-solving activity. **Silver Creek** will be getting a new First Aid Room, so our PES participants produced several designs for a new aid room. Jan took several design ideas home from the course. It was a great course with lots of enthusiasm and energy because of the efforts of many--our NSP village.



Lemons into Lemonade – or What to Do if your Resort Closes

Michael Steinberg
Sky Valley Ski Patrol

What happens when thirty patrollers, skis all tuned, and recently, CPR-Refreshed, find themselves without a resort for the season?



The **Sky Valley Resort** in the North Georgia mountains had been up for sale for several years, so it came as no surprise to anyone when resort manager **Steve Mason** announced in early December that the resort had finally been sold. What came as a big surprise, or rather a major shock to everyone was that the new owners announced that they would not open the resort for skiing this season. Because they were planning to spend millions of dollars on renovations, they decided to take the year off “*to do some planning*”.

“*I am totally blown away*”, said **Sky Valley PD Celeste Bernstein** in her e-mail to the patrol. “*I feel like someone has kicked me in the stomach*” added

Deep South Region Director Sylvia Talley in her reply.

But rather than sitting around and feeling sorry for themselves, the patrol sprang into action. **Celeste** immediately sent out an e-mail to the patrol reminding them that “*we are a family and will get thru this*”. She also set up an impromptu meeting at a local cantina to discuss plans and opportunities for the season. Nearly half the patrol showed up for the meeting on barely two days notice!

Celeste contacted **Tom Raudorf** at **Cataloochee** and **Ben Tholkes** at **Sapphire Valley** to offer our services to their patrols. Training Coordinator **Gordon Pettit** didn’t lose a step and arranged for Sky’s six S&T candidates to do their training at **Cataloochee**. Senior Coordinator **Chris Brecher** offered to take the three Senior S&T candidates to train at **Gatlinburg**. And six Sky patrollers decided to pursue their Senior Emergency Management this season. Remaining patrollers then quickly signed up to fill the voids at other resorts during holiday weekends, testing weekends and Christmas week.

Each week, starting the weekend before Christmas, Sky patrollers scattered to the winds and helped out at **Gatlinburg**, **Cataloochee**, **Cloudmont** and **Sapphire**.

The **Sky Valley** patrol would like to thank all of the patrollers at the above mentioned areas for their hospitality in accommodating us and supporting our training efforts on their hills. Special thanks go to Patrol Reps **Tom Raudorf**, **Wayne Morgan**, **Ben Tholkes**, **Bob Palik**, **Armand Mendez** and **Brandon Olson**, for making us feel at home.

Every cloud has a silver lining.

As it turns out, given the weather we had in early January, **Sky Valley** may not have had much snow to ski on even if it had opened.

More as the situation develops.....



On the Hill: **Sky Valley** patrollers **Constance LeBron**, **Gail Guentner**, **Brent Bowman**, **Mike Boggs**, **Celeste Bernstein (PR)** and **Michael Steinberg**...photo by Sky Valley



Gordy Peifer Steep Ski Camp by Robbie Barbour – Appalachian Patrol

This trip started off with nothing but problems...Myself and **Henry Horn** flew out of Charlotte and through Denver to Salt Lake city. Our bags made it but our skis did not. I guess that worked out ok since we had our boots, and I actually needed fat skis, as Alta had 23 inches of new snow on Wednesday and Thursday. **Gordy Peifer** had arranged for the Rossignol Demo Van to be there for us to demo different skis. I skied on the B3s and loved them. Anyway the camp went like this:

We met on the snow at 8:30 on **Friday** morning. We split up into 2 groups...Those who had over 20 days on the snow, and considered themselves "Rippers" went with Professional Freeskier **Brant Moles**. The remaining 6 those who did not considered themselves "Rippers," and us "Flatlanders" went with **Gordy Peifer**. I thought we would make a warm up run on the groomed, but the group unanimously voted that we hit the untracked new snow before everyone else got to it. **Henry** and I have both skied Alta many times, but **Gordy** took us to little chutes, nooks, and crannies that I never knew existed at the resort. We basically skied while the pros watched, and then gave us things to work on. We pretty much repeated this, ever 2 runs. It was very close to having a private lesson, as you got a ton of skiing, and subsequently, lots of critiquing and advice. I was unfortunate enough to take a bad fall on our 3rd run which sidelined me until Saturday, but this wasn't so bad because we were getting off of the slopes early for the **Avalanche Course**.

The group stopped skiing and met at 3:00pm at the lodge. From there, we went to the Snowbird/Powder Guides Avalanche Training Area, to meet **Jim Conway**. Jim is the Snow Expert and Stunt Co-coordinator for TGR Films. This new simulator area is awesome. Jim conducted an **Avalanche Basic Course**, which included **Avalanche Awareness**, recognizing the **5 Red Flags**, **Escape Routes**, **Safe Havens**, **Rescue Techniques**, and the instruction of proper use of an **avalanche transceiver**. Jim finished covering his materials, and we again split up into two groups. Half of us went through the Avalanche Course, one at a time, to rescue a single buried victim. When activated a 12" round pad (one for each victim), which is located approximately 3 meters under the snow, starts sending a signal. The rescuer then locates the victim and starts to probe. When the probe hits the pad a horn goes off, and the time it took to locate the victim is displayed. The other half of the group went with Jim to dig snow pits and analyze the snow pack. After receiving instruction on how to properly analyze the snow structure, we sawed and broke out our own "blocks" to determine and measure the failure points in the snow pack, and also the degree of danger of an avalanche. This site is open to the public to train with their transceivers anytime they choose. It is a great training aid in learning how to use an avalanche transceiver in real snow conditions, without an actual victim. After dark, we returned to the lodge, where we took an Avi-Quiz which was graded, and then we discussed the correct answers as a group until around 9pm.

Saturday morning came very early. We met on the snow at 8:30 again. **Gordy** was there along with Professional Free Skier **Jeremy Nobis**. We followed the same routine as Friday. Our half of the group skied with Gordy during the morning, and after lunch we skied with Jeremy. On our first run, we took the high traverse, and then hiked up to Gunshot. I probably would not have skied this if it wasn't the only way down. With some coaching and re-assurance, it wasn't too bad. We had **Joel**, a Professional Photographer for Team 13 photographing and shooting video that day. He skied like he should have been a professional skier as well as a photographer.

Immediately after skiing, we met in the bar of the *Goldminer's Daughter*, where **Gordy** plugged the cameras into the widescreen for video analysis. Later that night, local Alta Professional Photographer **Lee Cohen** put on a slide show in the basement game room. He had some of his favorite published, as well as some of his un-published photos from Utah and Alaska. The pictures were amazing. It is hard to imagine how he got some of those photos.

Sunday morning we met on the snow at 8:45am for our last day. We purchased an Alta-Snowbird ticket to ski European Style, from one resort to the other. Northface sponsored, Professional Free skier **Will Burke** was with **Gordy** for our last day of skiing and instruction. Our group started off with Will. We made one groomed run to the bottom, and then took the tram to the top. We hiked up the trail towards the top of Bald Mountain. In all my trips to Snowbird, this was a first for me. We skied in groups until around 11:30, and then the entire group met up for the remainder of the day. Henry and I had to catch a flight, so we had to leave shortly after. We missed the afternoon skiing, video analysis, and closing festivities, much against our wishes.

This was the most *awesome ski trip* that I could have ever imagined. These guys are the coolest people in the world to ski with. As you stand in the lift lines you can constantly hear people whispering...Look there is **Gordy Peifer**, or **Jeremy Nobis**, or **Will Burke**. We were fortunate to be in this small group, and to ride the lifts, ski, eat, get critiqued, and basically hang out with these guys for 3 days. I am used to living in Nascar Country and Charlotte where the pros are unapproachable. This was like hanging out with my friends at **Appalachian**...with the exception of the terrain. I would hate to fail to mention, that the rest of the group **Brian, Christine, Anton** (spelling?), **Ree** (spelling?), **Ned, Justin, Bob, Lance, "El Ripio", "Trescal", Kevin, Scott**, and even **Henry**. They were all the most incredible, fun, and friendly people to ski with, not to mention exceptional skiers. We all had a great time and learned a lot.

The website for this camp is Straight-line Adventures..... www.straightlineadventures.com. It was well worth the money for the lessons alone, not to mention the company, which was priceless. I have been on a lot of trips, but this was like the trip of a lifetime.

Robbie Barbour
Appalachian Ski Mountain



(Henry Horn/Gordy Peifer/Robbie Barbour @ Alta)



(Henry Horn/Will Burke/Robbie Barbour @ Snowbird)

**Southern Division of NSP
2005 Division Director Election Procedure & Schedule**

One nomination was received – for Neil Booth – ballots will be going out by February 1, 2005 to all Patrol Representatives of record on January 1, 2005.

February 21, 2005 Deadline for the receipt of ballots in hand of election coordinator.

March 1, 2005 Election Coordinator will announce results of the election.

Any concerns or procedural questions should be addressed to the Election Coordinator:

Lee T. Wittmann
104 Rainbow's End
Beech Mountain, NC 28604
Home 828.387.9722
Office 828.387.3505
Fax 828.387.3506
lwittmann@skybest.com

Additional Course Information

**(Woman's Toboggan Clinic)
Toboggan Enhancement Seminar and
Skier Enhancement Seminar**

When: Feb. 12– Feb. 13th 2005
Where: **Snowshoe Mtn. Resort**, meet at 8:30 at the patrol room.
Who: All female registered NSP members wanting to improve their skiing and toboggan skills.
Cost: \$75.00 for both days – Make checks out to Southern Division NSP

****Class size is limited to the first 16 people who register & pay the course fee****

This is a combined *Toboggan Enhancement Seminar and a Skier Enhancement Seminar*. The lead instructor, **Deb Daniels** is coming down from **Bromley Mountain** in Vermont to teach this course. Deb taught last years course in Massanutten which was very well received. The \$75.00 fee includes level II or level III PSIA instruction also. Last year we had to turn away five people so if you are interested please register early.

Please complete and send check made out to Southern Division NSP

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Telephone Number: _____best time to call_____

Skier ability: Beginner Intermediate Advanced Expert

Dietary restrictions:_____

What you would like to get out of this course

Please complete and return to:
Howard Tilley (Southern Division Toboggan Supervisor)
2565 Old Mill Road
High Point NC 27265
Questions? – Contact Howard at 336-884-5857 or e-mail htilley@triad.rr.com

Southern Division Calendar

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Sign-Up Deadline</u>
SEE REGIONAL ROSTERS FOR Educational Courses for 2004-2005						
Southern Cross Deadlines for 2005						
May	16	Spring Southern Cross Deadline		Southern Cross Editor	Teresa T. Stewart - sceditor@bellsouth.net	16-May-05
Division Meeting Events for 2005						
Apr	30	Exec. Comm. Strategic Planning Mtg	Wytheville VA	Holiday Inn 800-842-7652	Holiday Inn - Meeting Begins At 8:00 am	
Aug	6	Summer Exec. Comm. Planning Mtg	Wytheville VA	Holiday Inn 800-842-7652	Holiday Inn - Meeting Begins At 7:30 pm	
Aug	19	Executive Committee Meeting	Wytheville VA	Holiday Inn 800-842-7652	Holiday Inn - Meeting Begins At 7:30 pm	
Aug	20-21	Fall Board Of Directors Meeting	Wytheville VA	Holiday Inn 800-842-7652	Holiday Inn - Meeting Begins At 8:30 am	19-Jul-05
Aug	21	New Patrol Rep. Course	Wytheville VA	Holiday Inn 800-842-7653	For All New Line Personnel & Patrol Reps	21-Jul-05
Certified Events for 2005						
Mar	17	Certified Pre Evaluation Clinic	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1571		
Mar	18/19	Certified Evaluation	Snowshoe	Leslie Carter 434-325-1571		
Division Reporting Deadlines for 2005						
BUDGET SUBMISSIONS						
Apr	15	Next Seasons Budgets Requests	Annually	Jim Underwood 865-483-3675	Jnu@ltx.net	
Jul	1	Final Year End Budget Submissions	Annually	Jim Underwood 865-483-3676	Jnu@ltx.net	
Jul	1	Patrol Financial Reports (990's)	Annually	Jim Underwood 865-483-3677	Jnu@ltx.net	
Awards Submissions						
Apr	1	Awards Nominations	Annually	John Dobson	Jdobson4@aol.com	
		Nat'l Or Leadership Award Nominations		Anytime - Send To Chain Of Command Listed On Application Must Be Signed In Proper Order.		
End Of Year Report Submissions						
Apr	1	Patrol Reps End Of Year Report	Annually	Morgan Armstrong	Rmasp@Adelphia.Net	
Apr	1	Officers End Of Year Report	Annually	Respective Supervisor		
Apr	1	Supervisors End Of Year Report	Annually	Respective Supervisor		

Virginia Region Calendar

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Sign-Up Deadline</u>
Educational Courses held in Region for 2004-2005						
Mar	12	Avalanche Awareness	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8486		12-Feb-05
Events held in the Region for 2004-2005						
Feb	26	Senior Emergency Management Eval	Wintergreen	Dave Quidort 919-363-7935		
Feb	27	Senior S & T Evaluation	Wintergreen	Mike Fisher 434-296-8486		
Mar	13	Massanutten Picnic	Massanutten	Bartek Drewnowski 540-289-4955		

West Virginia Calendar

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Sign-Up Deadline</u>
Educational Courses for 2004-2005						
Feb	12	Women's Only Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713		12-Jan-05
Feb	12	Ski Enhancement Clinic	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713		12-Jan-05
Mar	6	MTR Level 1	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713		6-Feb-05
Region Events for 2005						
Feb	26	Basic S&T Evaluation	Winterplace	Tom Wagner 304-469-8039		
Feb	27	Senior S&T Clinic	Winterplace	Tom Wagner 304-787-3221		
Mar	5	Basic OEC Evaluation	Timberline	Janette Bennett 304-599-4915		
Mar	6	Basic S & T Evaluation	Timberline	Steve Cvechko 304-776-8540		
Mar	6	Sr S&T Evaluation	Snowshoe	Jan Starr 304-572-6713		
Mar	13	Sr Emergency Management Eval	Winterplace	Tom Wagner 304-787-3221		

Blue Ridge Region Calendar

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Sign-Up Deadline</u>
Region Events for 2004-2005						
Feb	12	Basic S&T Evaluation	Hawksnest	Tony Tingle 865-220-9456	8:30 am	
Mar	6	Basic S&T Evaluation	Appalachian	Tony Tingle 865-220-9456	8:30 am	

Smoky Mountain Region Calendar

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Sign-Up Deadline</u>
Region Events for 2004-2005						
Feb	13	SR S&T Evaluation	Gatlinburg, TN	Bob Brewster 828-684-8100		
Feb	6	SR OEC Clinic	Cataloochee, NC	Bob Brewster 828-684-8100		
Feb	20	SR OEC Evaluation	Cataloochee, NC	Bob Brewster 828-684-8100		

Deep South Region Calendar

(No Events Planned)

**Southern Division Directory
2004-2005 (Jan. 20, 2005)**

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**Southern Division Directory
2004-2005 (Jan. 20, 2005)**

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**Southern Division Directory
2004-2005 (Jan. 20, 2005)**

WEST VIRGINIA REGION

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**Southern Division Directory
2004-2005 (Jan. 20, 2005)**

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**Southern Division Directory
2004-2005 (Jan. 20, 2005)**

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**Southern Division Directory
2004-2005 (Jan. 20, 2005)**

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**Southern Division Directory
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**Southern Division Directory
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